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REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON THE SLAVE-TRADE.

Two sessions ago, as our readers will remember, the House of Commons appointed a Select Committee to inquire into the best means of finally extinguishing the slave-trade. At the close of the session of 1848, it presented its first Report, and, having obtained leave of the House, resumed its inquiries during the last session. Its final Report confirmed the conclusions to which it had previously arrived, upon a review of the evidence laid before it. We have furnished our readers with careful abstracts of the evidence produced, from which it will be seen that the slave-trade has greatly increased during the last two years, in consequence of the demand for slave-grown sugar,—that the preventive squadron has been totally unsuccessful in its suppression,—and that the sufferings and mortality of slaves, at the present time, are unexampled in the history of that dreadful traffic.

Dissatisfied with the results of the inquiry instituted by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, several noble lords, amongst whom we may mention Lords Brougham and Denman, and the Bishop of Oxford, determined upon a counter-inquisition, and the result of that inquisition is now before us, in the shape of a bulky Blue Book, of 660 pages. The Report, which is to be followed by another at the close of the next session of Parliament, is extremely short, and must appear, to all those who have examined the evidence upon which it is professedly built, extraordinary and enigmatical. Probably, when the Lords' Committee shall have concluded its examination, we shall have more light thrown upon the subject than we are permitted to enjoy at present.

Exception was taken, and we think justly, to the constitution of Mr. Hutt's Committee. It was clear to all who knew anything of the opinions of the gentlemen who constituted it, that it was useless to expect a report that would be satisfactory to all parties, or which would propound a means for the suppression of the slave-trade, in which all, or even a majority of them, could agree. It is clear that the grand object of the majority was to collect the evidence against the continuance of the African squadron for the suppression of the slave-trade, and not seriously to consider what means, in the event of the withdrawal of that squadron, ought and might be substituted for it. The Anti-slavery Committee were no parties to that inquiry. They were not invited to produce a single witness, and believing that the intention of some of its members was to leave Brazil and Cuba perfectly free to supply themselves with slaves unmolested and unchecked, they watched its proceedings with jealousy, and failed not to record their opinions at the proper time that such was their design. But with the evidence before them, independently of the private information they possessed upon the subject, the Anti-slavery Committee were compelled to adopt the conclusion, that the continuance of the cruising squadron on the coast of Africa could not be justified on the ground of any hope, even the most distant, that it would destroy the slave-trade, or very greatly, if at all, diminish the supply of its victims to the Spanish and Brazilian markets, so long as their respective Governments allowed the traffic to be carried on. Believing, moreover, that the Government would be forced to withdraw the squadron, notwithstanding any effort that might be made by those who sincerely believe it either to have done good service to the cause of humanity, or consider its increase might lead to the realisation of the object proposed, the Committee have earnestly pressed on the Government, both Houses of Parliament, and the country, a plan in which all the sincere friends of the anti-slavery cause might unite, and which, if carried into effect, as it

ought to be, with firmness and judgment, would not only check but destroy the slave-trade, and render slavery itself, in Brazil and the Spanish colonies, impossible, for any lengthened period of time.

But if we felt it to be our duty to except to the constitution of the Commons' Committee, for the reasons stated, we feel not less bound to object to the constitution of that appointed by the Lords. It is clear to us, from a perusal of the Report, that its object has been to find evidence in favour of the continuance of the African squadron, rather than the most efficient means for effecting the suppression of the slave-trade; and to damage, as far as possible, the testimony adduced before the Select Committee of the House of Commons against the cruising system. Now, we do not object to the sifting of the evidence, nor to the consideration of all the plans which ingenious or well-informed men may have suggested for the destruction of this giant iniquity; but we do complain of every attempt to mystify the evidence, or to the giving it a colour which it will not bear. The fact is as patent in the evidence laid before the Lords' as before the Commons' Committee, that the African squadron has not suppressed the slave-trade; that the slave-trade has increased since the Sugar Act of 1846 came into operation; and that, considered *per se*, in the judgment of its most vigorous defenders, it cannot effect the object to which it has been devoted. There must be added, according to their testimony, a variety of appliances, as well as a very large increase of force; and that any relaxation, from whatever cause it may arise, would give additional impetus to the traffic. The following is the Lords' Report:—

REPORT

“By the Lords' Committee appointed a Select Committee to consider the best means which Great Britain can adopt for the final extinction of the African slave-trade. Ordered to report:—

“That the Committee have met and considered the subject-matter to them referred, and have come to the following resolution, viz.—

“That the evidence which has been given before this Committee has led them to the conclusion, that although the efforts of Great Britain have not suppressed the slave-trade, and although it is doubtful whether the number of slaves exported during the last two years is not greater than in some preceding years, that, upon the whole, a large reduction of the trade has been effected, and its probable increase has been prevented.

“That all the evidence goes to prove that the prevalent impression as to the general unhealthiness of the cruising squadron is without foundation; and further, that the withdrawal of the cruisers from the coast of Africa would cause a great immediate increase in the slave-trade, and would inflict most serious injury on the legitimate commerce of Africa.

“That the Committee see reason to believe that certain alterations in the equipment and directions of the cruising squadron, which would be attended with little or no additional expense, would add greatly to its efficiency.

“But on this, and other points, the Committee are of opinion that further evidence should be taken before any practical suggestions can be offered to the house; they have, therefore, resolved, on account of the advanced period of the session, to report to your lordships the foregoing resolutions, and to recommend that the Committee should be re-appointed in the next session, to pursue the consideration of the subject, and to report finally to the house.

"And the Committee have directed the minutes of evidence taken before them, together with an appendix and index, to be laid before your lordships.

"23rd July, 1849."

Our limited space will not permit of our giving the evidence of the several witnesses examined by the Lords' Committee, in detail; we are compelled therefore to draw out those parts only which appear to be material on the points at issue. We commence with that portion of it which is in favour of the squadron:—

EVIDENCE IN FAVOUR OF THE SQUADRON.

Right Hon. Dr. LUSHINGTON.—"Having been so much engaged in planting the original number of the squadron, you naturally watch its result with interest?—Certainly. In your opinion, has it failed of its purpose, from any defects in working out the scheme which was then laid down?—I think it has been ineffectual in the attainment of the purposes for which it was intended, thus far, it has not suppressed the slave-trade, but I think that, independently of all other circumstances, it has prevented its natural increase; it has kept it down; and so far, I think, it has been successful; but I admit that, from the facts I have stated, it has not attained its end; and, more especially since the year 1846, the slave-trade has increased to a very large amount, as all accounts show."—*Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Slave-trade, 1849, p. 100.*

We need make no comment on the opinions of Dr. Lushington; they are of value, as coming from so high an authority; but it will be observed, he admits the fact fully, that the squadron "has not attained its end," and, more especially since the year 1846, the slave-trade has increased to a very large amount, as all accounts show.

Captain H. I. MATSON, R.N.—"Will you tell the Committee whether from your observation during the years you were on the coast, you believe that the cruisers, if rightly managed, might stop the slave-trade on the coast north of the line?—I think so. Speaking as a naval man, you see no impossibility in such a result?—No. I think it might be done, with an efficient squadron. Will you explain what you mean by an efficient squadron?—I think the squadron now is a very inefficient one; it has never been equal in number to what has been generally supposed; it has never been up to twenty-six vessels. I think, in the course of the last three years, seldom more than twenty-two have been on the coast of Africa; of which number, about three-fourths only were actually cruising, and many of those twenty-two certainly are the worst description of vessels we have in our service. I speak more especially with regard to the steamers. Where steamers are found to be inefficient, the worst of the bad ones are generally sent to the coast of Africa. The slaving steamers are very good, are not they?—I believe not; I have never seen one; but it is very difficult, I think, to get a good steamer, i.e.—one combining swiftness with the necessary capacity. Then are the Committee to understand that, in your judgment, the principal reason of the comparative inefficiency of the cruisers has been, that the ships themselves were not fit for the service?—Decidedly; and I do not think there can be two opinions among naval officers upon that question. Will you now inform the Committee what number of cruisers you would consider necessary to guard the coast, beginning from the most northerly point?—The slave-trade is a more profitable speculation since they have had a better market for their sugar than it was before, and it would therefore take a larger force to guard the coast now, than it would before 1846. Speaking as a naval officer, having had experience there, you would feel confident that a squadron of twenty-six vessels, half steamers and half sailing vessels, properly found and equipped, would be able to intercept the slave-trade along that whole line of coast?—Yes. I feel confident the force I have stated in detail, amounting in the aggregate to twenty-six or twenty-eight vessels, or even of twenty-two, if they were all steamers, would accomplish that object. It is to be understood, therefore, that you mean there should be twenty-four or twenty-six vessels constantly at work there?—Yes, constantly at the stations. And that there should be vessels enough attached to the service in order to make the necessary reliefs?—Yes. How many would it be necessary to attribute to that service of reliefs?—I would add another twelve. Which, added to the twenty-six, would make thirty-eight?—Yes, thirty-eight vessels, half steam and half sailing vessels, or the number might be reduced to thirty, if they were all steamers; that is, exclusive of vessels going out from England and returning home."—*Ibid. p. 250, 260.*

Captain Matson was a witness on whose testimony great reliance was placed. He attributes the failure of the squadron to the bad description of vessels employed, and to their not being rightly managed. With a large squadron, handled in the way he proposes, and constantly at their stations, he thinks the traffic may be put down. This professional opinion is met, not only by the testimony of Sir Charles Hotham, but by that of the opinion of the Board of Admiralty, as laid before the Commons' Committee by Lord John Hay, which shows that if it had been possible to have stopped the

slave-trade by the means confided to him, it would have been done. Of the skill and activity of the squadron placed under his order the most ample testimony is borne, and, with the exception of the opinion given by Captain Matson, no other naval officer, so far as we are aware, speaks generally in depreciating terms of the vessels employed in the suppression service. Supposing, however, what he says to be true, what must we think of the Board of Admiralty, by whose authority "the worst description of vessels we have in our service" were sent to the coast of Africa on so important a business?

Captain G. SPRIGG, R.N.—"Have you any suggestion to make as to the more effectual suppression of the slave-trade?—I think that the failure of the squadron is not to be attributed altogether to the want of power in the squadron, but more to the means of applying it."—*Ibid. p. 323.*

It will be seen that this officer does not agree with Captain Matson, for he says that "the failure of the squadron is not to be attributed altogether to the want of power, but rather to the means of applying it."

Captain J. ADAMS, R. N.—"Are you able to state to the Committee, from your own observation, with any accuracy, how many ships in your opinion it would be necessary to have to prevent the slave-trade upon the western coast of Africa?—I think the calculation we made before Dr. Lushington would be quite sufficient to stop the slave-trade, or to give it such a check as it has not yet received; that number was thirty-seven."—*Ibid. p. 355.*

In turning to the evidence referred to, we find that Captain Adams said that it would require "an immense number of vessels and boats" to blockade the coast, so as to shut out the slave-trade. In his opinion, it would require four small steamers or schooners to every 100 miles. Now, supposing the length of coast to be blockaded to be 2,195 miles, it would appear from the evidence that eighty-eight vessels of various descriptions would be necessary for that purpose, independently, of course, of reliefs. On being asked, can you mention any plan of your own for more effectually putting down the slave-trade?—he replied, "sending a great many men-of-war, a very large force, and establishing some people on different points of Africa."

Captain H. D. TROTTER, R.N.—Concurs with the opinion of Captain Adams.—*Ibid. p. 398.*

By referring to the evidence which this officer gave before Dr. Lushington and the Duc de Broglie, we find him stating that "though it would require a very considerable force to blockade the whole of the west coast of Africa," it would be absolutely necessary that the vessels so employed should have the power to intercept every vessel that was supposed to be engaged in the trade. He further says, "I have always considered that the only effectual means of doing away with the slave-trade would be by introducing and encouraging civilisation, for so long as the country remains uncivilised so long will the slave-trade be continued." He has no faith in treaties made with the native powers, except they be kept in "fear of naval guns, in the event of their breaking them." And he conceives that if the cessation of the slave-trade for five years could be secured by a complete blockade, it would not extinguish the trade, "if the same inducement of a foreign demand for slaves continued at the end of that period."

JAMES MACQUEEN, Esq.—"You would not imagine that the cruisers could finally and entirely put down the slave-trade without such internal improvements being carried out?—I should doubt it very much; I think it is possible to put down the slave-trade by great exertions; but to keep it down, when the thing exists in Africa, is quite a different thing."—*Ibid. p. 351.*

Mr. Macqueen is in favour of the squadron, but if he had been examined fully before the Lord's Committee he would have stated that, notwithstanding the efforts of the several squadrons we have had in various parts of the world engaged in the suppression of the slave-trade, Brazil and the Spanish colonies have received an ample supply of slaves for their purposes; and that the cost to this country of maintaining the squadron, added to the expenses incurred in connexion with its suppression, amounts to the enormous sum of £28,500,000 sterling.

Commander E. FISHBOURNE, R.N.—"Do you think the slave-trade can be suppressed?—Certainly, taking all the ordinary means of the squadron, the encouragement of legitimate trade, and I should be inclined to say, raise the differential duties."—*Ibid. p. 392.*

Here are two conditions added to the employment of the squadron by Captain Fishbourne—the encouragement of legitimate

commerce, and the raising the differential duties. We are in favour of every legitimate means being used to extend the cultivation of tropical produce in Africa, and look with favour on every feasible scheme submitted to the public on this point. With certain modifications, we should be most happy to see the scheme of Sir George Stephen carried into effect on the western, and Mr. Macqueen's plans adopted on the eastern coast of Africa. It is much wiser, in our judgment, to carry capital to Africa, to form plantations there, and to encourage the natives, both chiefs and people, to raise produce for export, than to pursue the present scheme for the suppression of the slave-trade. We hail with satisfaction the two-fold intention of the Portuguese Government to abolish slavery in its African possessions, and to encourage the cultivation of the soil. If that Government act honestly in these matters, not only will it derive immense advantages itself, but will more effectually extinguish the slave-trade south of the line than by any measure of a coercive character that can be employed.

Captain Fishbourne suggests the increase of the differential duties, in favour, we presume, of the free productions of the British colonies. We go further; we ask for prohibitory duties against the productions of the Spanish colonies and Brazil, so long as slavery and the slave-trade shall exist in them. At the same time we advocate that the produce of all countries, raised by free labour, should enter the British market on equal terms.

Captain W. HORTON, R.N.—“From what you saw of the service do you think that with the present force there is any possibility, let it be applied as it may, of putting an end to the trade?—I think none, unless you punish the parties engaged.”—*Ibid.* p. 430.

This officer deems it absolutely necessary, in order to the efforts of the squadron being successful, that the captains and crews of captured slavers should be punished. At present they are not so, but are to be found at all available parts of the coast, including Sierra Leone, ready for new adventures. None of the powers with whom we have treaties for the suppression of the slave-trade will concede to us the right of punishing any of their subjects engaged in the nefarious traffic; and in no case that we are aware of, even where our own seamen and officers have been wounded and slaughtered by them, or cruelly murdered, have any of these pirates afterwards met with punishment. Perfectly satisfied that their own Governments will not punish them, and that ours cannot, they fearlessly pursue the inhuman trade.

Hon. Captain DENMAN, R.N.—“Is it necessary to watch in some measure all the coast on which the slave-trade might be carried on, and to which it would be driven by measures of prevention upon other points?—I think it would be very difficult to prevent a single occasional case of a vessel now and then getting away; it would be necessary to keep up a surveillance; but the moment any considerable amount of slaving were established, we should immediately find it out, and proceed to act against it. The line of coast along which such surveillance would be necessary to be kept up, would exceed 1,000 miles?—In speaking of 1,000 miles, I have taken only the coast on which the slave-trade now exists, besides isolated spots in other quarters. In order to be able to exercise that surveillance with certainty, may it be assumed that, whatever be the number of miles of coast, vessels in the proportion of one sailing vessel to thirty-five miles, or one steamer to forty-five miles, would be sufficient as the whole force, allowing for reliefs?—Taking 1,000 miles of slave-trading coast, I am perfectly satisfied that with such a force, and with enough also to occupy single points where the trade exists, and with some also as reliefs, you would put an end to the slave-trade. What is the total force you would require?—I think now we should require about thirty-six sail.”—*Ibid.* p. 425, 426.

It is impossible to speak too highly of Captain Denman's efforts for the suppression of the slave-trade. We do not think him to be animated merely by professional motives, but that like his father, Lord Chief-Justice Denman, he is sincerely anxious to terminate, if it be possible, that scourge of Africa. A little reflection, however, will show, that sanguine as Captain Denman is that the application of external force would destroy the slave-trade, there is yet much of uncertainty as to the result. It will be perceived that his plans refer exclusively to the western coast of Africa,—that he would require thirty-six vessels to blockade a thousand miles of coast, and of course a proportionate number of vessels, for any additional line of coast along which the slave-trade might extend itself. It will also be seen that no provision is made by him for the east coast of Africa, although it is notorious that immense numbers of slaves have been, and may yet be shipped thence to Brazil. Coupled with the evidence given by Captain Denman before Dr. Lushington and the Duc de Broglie, in favour

of a complete blockade of the coast, he said the following things are essentially necessary:—

“I consider a universal right of search upon the part of the ships of war, of whatever nation, employed upon that service to be indispensable, whether under particular treaties, or whether under some substitute for the existing system; but that right I take to be quite essential. The next thing in importance, I think, would be to affix a personal penalty or punishment upon the persons who may be found engaged in the traffic. Thirdly, the breaking up of the slave depôts. Fourthly, the entering into treaties with the native powers, providing for the destruction of the slave factories. Fifthly, the establishment of commercial posts in the neighbourhood of all present slave-trading districts, the encouragement of legitimate commerce, the instruction and improvement of the natives by means of missionary labour and otherwise. And, lastly, the liberated African population of Sierra Leone may be made use of with the greatest advantage, in disseminating improvement and a horror of the slave-trade amongst the natives, from whence they originally came.”

Taking the various things, possible and impossible, now brought to view, in connexion with the evidence in favour of the squadron, laid before the Lords' Committee, we conceive we are entitled to ask, what reasonable hope can be entertained that the slave-trade can be put down by external force?

We now proceed to give the evidence of the witnesses whose testimony may fairly be considered against the squadron. It may be proper, however, to say, before we do so, first, it was obviously the design of the Lords' Committee to collect every available scrap of information they could obtain in favour of the squadron; and secondly, to damage, as far as possible, the evidence laid before the Commons' Committee against it. The *animus* of those who examined Sir Charles Hotham, for instance, was clearly discernible. In every possible way they endeavoured to break down his testimony as to the inability of the squadron to extinguish the slave-trade, or by any modification of it to accomplish that object, but in which they failed.

EVIDENCE AGAINST THE SQUADRON.

Right Hon. Lord HOWDEN.—“Has your lordship had an opportunity of observing what the state of feeling is as to the probable success of our cruisers upon the African coast?—The feeling in Brazil, as expressed to the English, is that it is a failure. Do you think that is the real feeling, or an assumed opinion, in order to try and discourage us?—I believe the great capitalists and slave dealers, who can afford to lose a ship now and then, are not much terrified by our squadron, because they put down their losses precisely the same way that any merchant puts down his losses by the accidents of trade, and they calculate the average.—The small slave dealers, who have merely shares in a particular venture, are those who mostly suffer, and are often ruined by our captures. It was given in evidence before the House of Commons by Mr. Cliffe, that there had been at first great apprehensions of the effect of the English cruisers; but that then, practically speaking, it was found that they did little—that the fear died away?—I think that is correct as regards the great speculators. It was given in evidence before the House of Commons by Mr. Banelin, of the Foreign Office, that the great repression of the slave-trade has always been from the effect of cruisers upon the coast of Brazil; are the Committee to understand that your own view is entirely different upon that point?—I have given my reasons why I doubt whether cruisers, acting on the coast of Brazil, without some simultaneous combination with other cruisers on the coast of Africa, would have any decisive effect in itself in putting an end to the trade; it might check it to a certain amount, by capturing a few of its vessels, for some would of course be taken; if we could get the Brazilians to co-operate with us internally the object might be attained, but I do not think it ever will by our efforts alone.”—*Ibid.* p. 35.

It will be remembered that Lord Howden is but lately arrived from Brazil, where, as British Minister, he had the fullest opportunity of becoming acquainted with the extent to which the slave-trade is carried on, the feelings of the community in relation to it, and the faithlessness of the Government in not carrying their treaties for its suppression into execution. Apart from the honest co-operation of the Brazilian Government, Lord Howden has no hope that the slave-trade will be put down.

Sir C. HOTHAM.—“Are the Committee to understand that you are of opinion that no exertions of the British squadron can either prevent or materially check the carrying on of the slave-trade upon the coast of Africa?—They certainly impede the operations of the slave-trade; but I cannot believe that they materially check it. Are you aware that it has been given in evidence that the demand for slaves in Brazil is much

greater than the supply?—I am not aware of that. Are the Committee to understand that you have not, as commander-in-chief upon that station, had opportunities of observing the trade, so as to be able to form an opinion whether the cruisers repressed the number exported or not?—I cannot say; but my impressions are, that *the Brazilians have always obtained the number they required*. Are you prepared to state how many steamers you think it would require to put down the slave-trade effectually on the west coast of Africa?—I do not think that any amount we could find would be effectual, inasmuch as I believe that the slave-trade would be carried on from any part of Morocco down to the Orange River and Mozambique on the other side, and therefore *your whole navy is unavailable*. Could you, by any naval means, effectually put down the slave-trade upon the west coast of Africa?—I would not undertake to do it. Are you aware that Captain Denman lays down the position that preventing embarkation should be the great object of the squadron?—So it should, if it were possible. And the capture of other vessels is entirely secondary?—That, again, is governed by the same rule; that it is impossible. Do you generally agree with that view?—I would agree with it, were it possible; but, *as it is not possible*, the next thing to be done is to seek the best means of injuring the slave dealers. Are the Committee, then, to understand that you do not think that to be the mode upon which the system should be conducted, because you think it impossible?—Because I think it impossible. Are we, then, to gather that you do not think that to be the object to which the efforts of the squadron ought to be directed?—That is a general question. I am not prepared to point out any particular mode in which the squadron should act; I never could satisfy my own mind on the point while I was on the station, except that it became more and more confirmed as to the impracticability of putting the slave-trade down with our present measures, and more and more anxious that Government or that the higher authorities *should find some other means of suppression*. With reference to that part of the question to which my attention has already been directed, I am not prepared to condemn the present system without substituting something else. Have you considered what would be the effect upon the trade by a large employment of steamers by England?—I have. Is it your impression that it would stop the trade?—I have considered the subject in all its bearings, and I am sorry to say I am not prepared to suggest any means by the employment of a force, either steam or otherwise, which would effect the object which all educated persons have so long desired. Will you state to the Committee, in what way you think the traders would be able to avoid the effect of a steam preventive navy?—As I have stated in my despatch, if England, with the employment of her best means, has never been able to keep out illicit produce from this country, how can we possibly hope to succeed in a similar endeavour in Africa? Still, your reason for believing that that course would fail, is not because you think it would lead to the employment of superior steamers by the Brazilian slave-traders?—That is a separate question; the question so put would be answered, that naturally speaking the Brazilians would meet any increase of steamers upon our part by an increase upon theirs, and that a nation, which can spend with facility three millions in the purchase of slaves, and the slave-trade, would find no sort of difficulty in hiring or buying, or engaging vessels sufficient for that purpose."—*Ibid.* p. 161-179.

The opinions of Sir Charles Hotham are too well known to our readers to require any remarks of ours to elucidate them. It may, however, be as well to observe, that this officer gives it as his opinion, that "the Brazilians have always obtained the number of slaves they required;" that the whole British navy would be insufficient to put down the slave-trade, looking at all the points at which it might be carried on; that Captain Denman's scheme is impossible of execution, and that we should endeavour to find some other means of suppression.

We find it impossible to classify some of the witnesses; we therefore propose to give their evidence under several heads, and to leave to our readers to judge how far or otherwise their testimony can be made available in support of the African squadron.

INEFFICIENCY OF THE CRUISING SQUADRON.

R. HESKETH, Esq.—"Are you of opinion, from the knowledge which you have acquired of the state of things upon the coast of Africa, that a very great increase of the force would enable us to put an entire end to the slave-trade?—No; I do not think it would. If the force were doubled, do you think it would?—*I do not think it would.*"—*Ibid.* p. 287.

Captain H. CHADS, R.N.—In reply to question 4091, says, "I doubt whether any possible blockade would ever actually extirpate the slave-trade. When you said that you thought no armed force would suffice completely to extirpate the slave-trade, did you mean that even if a line of steamers could be placed along the coast, giving to each steamer not more than sixty or seventy miles, the slave-traders would escape us?—They would certainly find it difficult to do so then, if you had that immense force of steamers. That would be twenty steamers or thereabouts, for the whole west coast, or where steamers were not used, a proportionate force of sailing vessels?—If you could ensure their always

being there, that would do; if you allowed for reliefs, and kept up a strict line of blockade, one can hardly see how a vessel could elude them. But no force much short of that would have the effect?—No force short of that would do it; then the result would be, that the profits on a cargo would become so enormous, that one successful voyage would be the fortune of a man; therefore, you would have always people to attempt to carry on the traffic; and on the slightest relaxation of the blockade, it would flourish again with tenfold vigour. When you say that it does not in the least diminish the traffic in slaves, you do not mean the traffic is as great with our squadron upon the coast as it would be if the squadron were removed, would you?—My opinion, from what I saw on the coast, was, that by our squadron being there, we simply throw the trade into the hands of the richer merchants; that they had a demand for a certain number of slaves in the Brazils, and that they got those slaves, whether or not. They might lose several vessels, but eventually they would succeed in getting over the numbers they wanted."—*Ibid.* p. 369-384.

Commander T. H. LYSAGHT, R.N.—"Do you think, with twenty-two vessels, it is possible to keep down, or anything like to keep down, the slave-trade?—A very great check is given to the slave-trade, but I do not think we can say that we keep it down; the number of slaves they want *they will have, and do have*, and an extra number are shipped off the coast to make up for those we take away to the West Indies or Sierra Leone. If anything should occur in Brazil for their wanting more, do you think, in spite of the twenty-two vessels which we have, they could get more?—*I think so.*"—*Ibid.* p. 377.

Captain JOHN BEACROFT.—"Can you give any advice to the Committee how the slave-trade is to be put down?—I have not considered that subject. It is perfectly obvious to me that the squadron on the coast is not efficient. Do you see any prospect, by the present means, of putting down the slave-trade?—I do not think the squadron is effective for that purpose. You would have more efficient ships?—Of that I am sure. And a greater number of them?—There ought to be more steamers, and more efficient, to do anything useful. But the present system is a failure?—At present I think it is."—*Ibid.* p. 307.

Commander Lord JOHN HAY, R.N.—"Will you state what your impression is, from the observations which you have been able to make upon the stations upon which you have cruised, as to the possibility of maintaining an effectual blockade of the slave-trade upon the African coast?—It is possible, but with a very large force. Will you state what force you mean when you say a very large force?—*I should say not less than sixty vessels, and ten reliefs, which would be seventy.* Would that include the whole coast?—That would include the whole coast. *The western coast, not the eastern.* Will you state further, whether you think, if the slave-trade were extinguished at certain points, a smaller force would afterwards serve to prevent its breaking out again?—*I think not.* Is there any suggestion which your knowledge and experience of the coast enable you to give the Committee, with reference to the subject of their inquiry, how the slave-trade can be most effectually checked?—Nothing further than what I have stated; increasing the number of vessels, or else permitting it altogether, *as the present squadron is of no service there.*"—*Ibid.* p. 315-317.

ACTIVITY AND EXTENT OF THE SLAVE-TRADE.

Right Hon. Lord HOWDEN.—"The price of slaves has fallen since the year 1844, or 1845?—Certainly. Did you hear anything of steamers being built or bought for the purpose of carrying on the trade?—Steamers were built at Ponta de Area, almost opposite to my house at Rio, for the purpose of the slave-trade. Have you heard what has been their success?—I know that the steamers have landed cargoes of 1,500 slaves; and to my knowledge, in the year 1847, there was one vessel that made five trips to Africa and back. A steamer or a sailer?—A sailer, and landed all her cargoes; therefore, a steamer might make at least eight trips—and she carries more cargo. Can you say what profits she must have made?—The sailing vessel, of which I am speaking, brought, according to the lowest calculation, 3,000 slaves; they give an average of £40 a piece, and the expenses would be about a fifth of the net sale."—*Ibid.* p. 25-35.

In addition to the evidence of Lord Howden, we copy from the Appendix of the Lords' Report the following extract from a despatch of Mr. Consul Porter, dated Bahia, 30th Sept. 1848, in which the success of another Brazilian vessel trading to that port is made known. Mr. Porter says, "I beg to call your attention to the Brazilian yacht *Andorinha* of eighty tons burthen, which vessel has made eight successful voyages to and from the coast of Africa, having actually landed 3,392 slaves at this port, receiving the usual freight of 120 reis per head, 407,040, amounting to £40,704 sterling, calculated at the current rate of exchange of 24d. per milrei. Her first cost, including everything for the voyage, may have been about £2,000. The parties interested in the vessel admit, that after deducting all expenses she has left a clear profit of more than 800 per cent. The *Andorinha* landed her first cargo of slaves in December, 1846."—*Appendix*, p. 98.

C. HERRING, Esq.—"Has the price of slaves risen since 1846, the year in which the change of the Sugar Duties took place?—It is a mere

fact, that when I left Brazil in 1847, in the beginning of that year thousands of blacks had been landed on the coast, larger than had ever been the case during my residence in Brazil, for the price of blacks had fallen down from 800 milreas to 600. That you attributed to the greater demand in the labour market from the prospect of an increased demand for sugar?—I suppose the slavers had been fortunate in eluding the cruisers, or perhaps there had been a laxity on the part of the cruisers. A few cargoes would make the difference?—Yes. There were supposed to be at Rio then, or in the neighbourhood of Rio, 11,000 or 12,000 blacks for sale."—*Ibid.* p. 213.

CAUSE OF THE INCREASE OF THE SLAVE-TRADE.

Right Hon. Lord HOWDEN.—"Did you understand that there had been a great increase in the demand for slaves, in consequence of the alteration of the law with respect to the importation of sugar into this country?—I have been assured that there has been a great increase in the importation of machinery connected with sugar cultivation in Brazil, in the last two or three years. Slaves being an essential part of the machinery for the manufacture of sugar, was the demand for slaves, as you understood, increased in consequence of the alteration of the Sugar Duties in this country?—Yes, according to my information."—*Ibid.* p. 25.

Right Hon. Dr. LUSHINGTON.—"Do you attribute the present amount of the slave-trade very much to the effect of the Act of 1846?—To my mind it is abundantly clear."—*Ibid.* p. 99.

C. HERRING, Esq.—"Can you give the Committee any information as to the effect which the permission of the importation of sugar into England under the recent Act has produced in Brazil?—There is no doubt that as you increase the prosperity of the Brazilians, that is to say, the more sugar and coffee—say, everything which they grow—you take of them, the more induced will they be to have more slaves over; they will be induced to give a higher price for them."—*Ibid.* p. 213.

DIFFICULTIES OF SUPPRESSION.

Right Hon. Lord HOWDEN.—"In regard to the long reef parallel with the coast, which you spoke of, is the interval between it and the shore such as to admit of cruisers, particularly of steamers, passing up and down?—Some of the steamers from Rio go within the reef, whereas our steamers do not; the boats, and even the vessels of the country do it; but until we have greater experience of it, I do not think that our own cruisers would think themselves justified in following where slavers could go in safety; the whole system of shore signals is now brought to a degree of perfection that is quite extraordinary, when you recollect the extent of the country. The boats go out to reconnoitre, and some being catamarans, as in the waters of Bahia and Pernambuco, they are hardly visible. When they see the cruisers they sound immense horns, which are heard upon the shore, and up goes a fire upon the hill as a beacon, which is repeated along the coast; it is impossible for anything to be more perfectly managed; all the appliances of this trade are brought to a degree of perfection that is astonishing, and which nothing but the immense profit can explain. The slaves, too, are now landed in large flat-bottomed boats, which are filled with amazing celerity. The slaver does not even anchor, and after getting rid of her cargo, and, perhaps, part of her equipment, returns to Rio, or Bahia, or Santos, or Santa Caterina in ballast."—*Ibid.* pp. 34, 35.

Commander Sir C. HOTHAM.—"Are the Committee to understand that the slaves could with equal facility be shipped from any one point along the whole extent of coast?—It may be considered certain that the slave dealers have, by their skill, overcome all the difficulties. Even the seasons of the year hardly affect them; they are indifferent about the loss of life, provided they obtain the number of slaves necessary for their cargo; therefore they can always receive the number required, by employing two or three vessels for that purpose."—*Ibid.* p. 147.

HORRORS OF THE SLAVE-TRADE.

Right Hon. Lord HOWDEN.—"Were any slavers taken during the time you were at Rio?—The very day before I arrived at Bahia there was a slaver taken. I went on board her, and it was a most frightful sight. A dozen of these poor creatures were dying, and the only means of saving them would have been to have sent them on shore. They went again across the Atlantic to Sierra Leone; many were dying daily, and a contagious disease aboard."—*Ibid.* p. 26.

Right Hon. Dr. LUSHINGTON.—"Will you state your impression upon the fact of the case, as to whether the horrors of the passage are greatly increased by that cause in your judgment?—I believe that, to a certain extent, they have been so increased."—*Ibid.* p. 105.

J. E. CLIFFE, M.D.—"What proportion of loss do you assign to the middle passage?—That, offhand, I could not tell you correctly; many say that it is now 15 per cent. in the middle passage—that is, on the passage. When I make these statements, I make them of those who now actively carry on the trade; they say that from 15 to 20 per cent. of all exported from Africa are lost on the middle passage, or within two months of their arrival on the coast. I do not give you that as mine; I give it to you from those who are connected with the trade. The trade which, previously to 1830, was comparatively speaking

humane, became, after 1830, full of horrible cruelties?—It has."—*Ibid.* p. 192.

Commander T. H. LYSAGHT, R.N.—"Is it your opinion that the measures of repression which we now use, tend at all to increase the horrors of the slave-trade?—Yes, very much; we drive them into smaller vessels. I have taken one vessel, which we call 130 tons, but which the measurers call 90 tons, which had on board 750 slaves, and others crowded in proportion. Are they more crowded now than they were before, when Englishmen carried on the trade?—I should say three times as many are put into one vessel."—*Ibid.* p. 377.

Captain H. CHADS, R.N.—"With respect to our present system adding to the horrors of the trade, how does that occur?—For instance, several vessels, perhaps, may have been captured without taking away slaves; when a vessel, therefore, has the chance of taking away slaves, they crowd them to a frightful extent into her. Again, they send over, at the present time, unseaworthy, and very small vessels, indeed. I had to destroy a great number of such. They sent them over because the risk of capture was so great, and because, if they were taken, the mere loss of the vessels themselves was very little; consequently the slaves, when put into such vessels, have to suffer much greater horrors. From their being smaller vessels?—Yes, and badly found. Some vessels have no slave-decks even, the slaves being intended to be put on the top of the water-casks."—*Ibid.* p. 384, 385.

Captain W. HORTON, R.N.—"Did you take any vessel full of slaves?—Two. What sized vessels were they?—One was about 38 tons; she had been built in a river on the coast, about thirty miles from Ambrizette; she had 214 slaves on board, all children nearly. Did you understand that it was an unusual thing for a boat of that description to attempt to navigate the Atlantic, and carry slaves over to Brazil?—No, I did not; the history of those men was, that they had been captured, and they had met together; one or two of them had been carpenters, and they had managed to build this vessel. What was the age of the children?—I should think, from seven to twelve years of age; there were fifty girls, and the rest boys. Is it a novelty in the trade, the carrying of children as slaves to Brazil?—Not at all from the south coast; no children leave the Bights at all. What was the other vessel you captured full of slaves?—She was a small schooner, of about 50 tons, with 306 in her, all children also."—*Ibid.* p. 430.

The picture which the foregoing extracts give us of the slave-trade, as at present carried on, is full of horror; and whatever difference of opinion there may be amongst the friends of the abolition cause, in reference to the best mode of suppression, of this we feel assured, that all parties will redouble their exertions to effect its overthrow. We earnestly invite the co-operation of every friend of humanity throughout the country to aid us in our crusade against the giant iniquity. All can do so. All can unite in an urgent appeal to both Houses of Parliament, and to Government, to make, without delay, a formal demand on the Brazilian and Spanish Governments, for the liberation from bondage of all those unhappy Africans who, contrary to the faith of treaties, have been for so many years past illicitly introduced into their colonies and territories. Lord Palmerston fully recognises the right of this country to make such a demand. Lord Aberdeen concurs in that opinion. Dr. Lushington's judgment upon it is decisively in its favour. What, then, hinders a united effort in this direction? Nothing, we are persuaded, but a thorough good understanding between all classes of Abolitionists. One earnest, vigorous, united effort on the part of the Government and the people of this country in this direction would destroy the slave-trade, and pave the way for the rapid abolition of slavery in the Spanish colonies and Brazil.

THE ST. JOHN DEL REY MINING COMPANY.

We are not likely to be kept without ample materials for forming an opinion on the treatment of the slaves possessed or hired by the St. John Del Rey Mining Company. In the last number of the *Reporter* we gave the circular of the Company in defence of their proceedings, denying the accusations which had been brought against them. In the present number we give Mr. Routh's reply to the second circular, together with a letter by Mr. Robert Monach, late medical attendant on the slaves at Morro Velho. Mr. Routh intends to petition both Houses of Parliament upon the subject at the opening of next session. A copy of the petition will be found in another part of the *Reporter*. He will, no doubt, furnish those who present it with ample verifications of his charges. We commend the following documents to the attention of our readers:—

To the Editor of the Mining Journal.

SIR,—A fresh circular to the shareholders having been issued from the office of the St. John del Rey Mining Company, attempting to refute

what I stated to them in my letter of the 15th inst., I trust you will insert my reply. It is quite true that, in my official capacity as secretary to the company, I extracted all the information respecting the mortality and bad treatment of the slaves, and handed the same to the chairman, who wrote the circular, and I also reported to the board that it had been sent to all the shareholders who received the last dividend. I admit I should have expressed my opinion that the whole of the statements were untrue, but I had no wish to lose my appointment, and I thought that any person possessing a particle of sense would have seen that it was a "puff."

The circular states that there is nothing whatever in the advices from the superintendent that can, in any degree, warrant the imputation that the negroes have been overworked. It is not likely that he would criminate himself; but will not the testimony of two medical gentlemen, who have examined into the medical reports from Morro Velho, be admitted? Is the testimony of the two gentlemen who have recently arrived from thence to be disbelieved and disregarded? Is the fact itself, of the enormous mortality amongst the underground negroes, of which I shall presently speak, to be set aside? Is the evidence, which is shown by the increase of work done by each borer since 1847, and especially since the erection of the new 36-head stamps, of no consequence?

The great mortality among the slave population of the company at Morro Velho has been a source of the greatest uneasiness to the administration, ever since the mine was first worked by the St. John del Rey Company. In confirmation of this undeniable fact, the company's correspondence shows that the withdrawal of the two medical men, who succeeded each other at the mine between 1834 and 1845, was caused by the uneasiness felt on the score of excessive mortality, as compared with the mortality of any other mining establishment in the neighbourhood, either Brazilian or English; and lately, under the present administration, with the fourth medical officer who has served under the company at Morro Velho, the mortality has exceeded all former precedent—I say all former precedent, because the chairman, in his circular of the 19th Sept. last, refers to an extraordinary mortality which occurred in 1840—viz., 53 deaths out of a population of 500 slaves; but the comparison is not a fair one, the mortality of 1840 having its cause well understood.

I affirm that the recent mortality has been occasioned by overwork inside the mine. The mortality in 1840 originated in a wholly different cause; the deaths in 1840 occurred principally among the surface negroes; the cause of the mortality was this:—in the beginning of 1839, the Minas Geraes Company purchased, through its Brazilian agent, in Ouro Preto, about 120 contraband new slaves (*meias caras*), only recently imported into Brazil from the coast of Africa. These newly-imported slaves are quite unfit for any kind of laborious employment for a year or so, after the sufferings of the middle passage. After working some months in the mine of Moro das Almas, belonging to the Minas Geraes Company, they were transferred over to the establishment of Morro Velho in the latter end of 1839, the Morro das Almas Mine being abandoned, and the chairman of both companies being the same.

The administration of Morro Velho, in consideration of the unfitness of these newly-imported slaves for underground work, employed them wholly on the surface, on light work; a great many, indeed, were placed in the garden which supplied the negroes with vegetables, rather for the purpose of occupation than of work. Notwithstanding these precautionary measures, a large number of these negroes died in 1840, whether from the effect of their previous work at Morro das Almas, or from their not being yet acclimatised to Brazil, or accustomed to labour of any kind. Be this as it may, numbers of them died, and this was the cause of the great mortality in 1840; consequently forming no precedent or parallel to the mortality of 1848 and 1849, which has occurred amongst the most robust negroes in the company's service, and, as I re-state, among the underground slaves. Thirty-three first-class blacks, six second-class, and four third-class, have died from 1st January to 3d July.

The borers and kibble-fillers are continually changing their occupation, one week boring and another week, perhaps, filling kibbles, or doing something else *underground*; therefore, the artful manner in which the circular endeavours to make it appear that the deaths of the borers amounted to only 13, and one from accident, is easily seen through.

It is not, however, solely on the above-named result that I form my opinion; this opinion has been strengthened and confirmed by the assertions of two gentlemen who have recently returned from Morro Velho. Assertions made by them in my presence—to me, in fact; and it has been stated to others, by one of these gentlemen, that, so far from the negroes willingly working overtime, the superintendent has "*feitores*" (overseers) employed to hunt them out of hiding places, whither they resort to avoid working "overtime."

The two gentlemen I allude to must confirm these statements, and I most solemnly pledge myself that they made these assertions, and that not by any means in the way of secrecy. If the chairman had questioned these two gentlemen at the board on this point, when they first arrived, I have no doubt they would have stated to him what they stated to me.

That the excessive mortality is *wholly* to be attributed to overwork, I for some of it may with justice be attributed to the medical officers, as the following facts will prove:—A female slave was

sent to the hospital; the surgeon beat her, and sent her away. The party who had told her to go the surgeon then wrote him a letter, on which he called and said, "Damn her, I will bleed and physic her." She returned to the hospital, and died in two days afterwards. Five slaves were ill, and sent to the hospital by the manager of the negroes. The surgeon sent them away, saying they were fit to work. They were, consequently, obliged to work; four of them died shortly afterwards, and one, as I have before stated, tumbled into the mine, and was killed, not being able to see his way down the ladder. The allowing "overtime" to be worked at all by the underground slaves is a very questionable principle. That slaves who perform a full day's work for nothing may be induced to overwork themselves for something—for money for themselves—only proves that they are willing to obtain a few creature-comforts of the freeman, without reflecting, or, indeed, much caring about the loss of health, which is remote, while the employment of a little money is present happiness.

This subject was very seriously and maturely considered by the administration in 1844, in consequence of the medical officer of the establishment then thinking that the underground slaves were overworked; and the administration, which always entertained the views above expressed, gave orders that no overtime should be worked for *breaking ore, for the mere obtaining of more gold*, but should be confined wholly to preserving the machinery and indispensable works in order. This system was pursued with very little, if any, variation until 1847. The freemen bore as much, and no more, and they work no more hours than the slaves at *regular duty*, and yet *they never work overtime*. One would think, if the privilege of working overtime were so very desirable a boon, that the free labourers would avail themselves of it. It is quite certain, that the administration would be very glad if they did; but they do not, and never have done so.

Whatever may be the real cause of such an excessive mortality as exists at Morro Velho, it is notorious that it has passed into a proverb in the country. In speaking of hiring slaves to Morro Velho, slave owners say they will not send their slaves to the slaughter-house, "*Mandalos para o azogue*." As for the alleged epidemics being the cause of the recent mortality, they come regularly round every year in succession. It is only necessary to examine the monthly medical reports for any series of years to see this. May and June influenzas, followed by pneumonia and pleurisy, until August, when dysentery begins, and, with some fever, lasts until March and April. It is regular and certain, and visits every other establishment at the same period, with comparative little mortality. In fine, since the assertion has been made, in more than one public paper, that the mine slaves have been overworked, it would have seemed natural and reasonable that the two gentlemen who have recently returned from Morro Velho should have been questioned at the board of directors on the subject of "overwork;" but this has not been the case. The "least said, the soonest mended," has been the motto worn by the chairman.

One word on the costs. The monthly costs, as presented to the shareholders in the extracts from the correspondence, are no more the *real* costs, than that, in a railway company,—fully established, calls paid up, and dividends paying,—the real costs would be shown by buying locomotives and coke, to replace consumption, wear and tear, and omitting to insert the cost of purchase in the revenue account. The cases are similar. What the railway companies have been doing in this way, this mining company has been lately doing. The consequence is, that the month's expenses, as presented to the shareholders, and inserted in the *Mining Journal*, are almost invariably less than the actual costs, or amount expended and become due. Many years since, the capital account was closed, as regards everything in the way of stores and machinery, or any article of consumption; the cost-sheet used, therefore, to show monthly the entire debit side of all the liabilities incurred during the month in Brazil, or of which advice of payment in London was received. Nothing, however minute, was omitted. If £1000 was paid, or became due for stores, and only £500 worth were consumed, the whole £1000 was entered in the cost-sheet; but, some time after June, 1847, this system was altered, and an approximate estimate was made, and is still made, of what is known and supposed to be consumed. The defectiveness of such a system is proved by the fact of the actual monthly costs being greatly in excess, on the whole, over these estimated—these doctored accounts.

I know what I am stating; and investigation will corroborate my assertion. During about the last eight months, the old and new forms of costs have been received from the mines. Only the new deceptive form has been laid before the shareholders—a reference to both will confirm my statements. There are many points in my letter of the 15th Oct., which the chairman has not deemed it necessary to refer to, and which, therefore, do not require any further remarks on my part. With regard to the mine being fairly or unfairly worked, notwithstanding the fine accounts the chairman has inserted in his circular, I maintain that it is not fairly worked; and any person who *understands* mining, by looking at the map at the office, will say I am right.

City, Oct. 31.

W. ROUTH.



To the Editor of the Daily News.

"SIR,—I have been so distinctly alluded to in Mr. W. Routh's letter, inserted in your last week's journal, that any longer silence on my part might be construed into a tacit approval of the system at present pursued at Morro Velho, with respect to the working of the slaves.

"So far back as 1843, in my official capacity of surgeon to the establishment, I called attention to the then great mortality amongst the mine blacks, and gave my opinion it could only arise from overwork, and that as the mining captains and others immediately concerned always denied that they were in any degree overworked, and maintained that they worked for eight hours only, I proposed that the whole force should be divided into three corps, to work only eight hours each. My proposal was rejected; but my representations had at least one good effect, in rendering the taskmasters of the poor negroes more cautious in their exactions of labour. Nearly all overtime also was done away with, and the mortality gradually, but sensibly diminished. The present surgeon has thought fit to adopt a very different plan—the present superintendent is bent solely on large profits—and the present unexampled mortality will continue unabated, if the directors do not interfere to put a stop to it.

"I have no wish to come before the public with the details of a system which must meet with universal condemnation, and I have nothing whatever to do with the dispute between Mr. Routh and the directors; but, in the cause of humanity, I think it right to state here my reasons for believing the present frightful mortality arises from overwork; and to do this I must, in the first place, shortly describe the system itself, to show how easily this can be done, and yet leave room for very doubtful and contradictory statements.

"With the exception of 48 men, all the slaves employed in mine work are divided into two corps, who work day and night alternately every week. One corps goes to work in the morning, and another in the evening, when they come under the orders of the mine captains, who dispose of them as they think best for the prosecution of the works in hand—some boring, others breaking rocks with a sledge hammer, filling kibbles, tramming, &c. There is no distinct class of borers, kibble-fillers, &c., for the same black may be employed boring at one time and filling kibbles at another, and so on. At what time of the day or night they are allowed to leave work is all doubt and uncertainty. Very contradictory statements are made on this point. One thing, however, is certain—the extraction of the stone broken goes on unceasingly from Monday morning to Sunday morning, and all the blacks employed in this work (I believe 96 in number) relieve each other every twelve hours. The great majority, however, have task work allotted to them, and this is supposed not to exceed eight hours for the borers, and ten hours for all others. When made to work beyond their tasks, they are paid for it as overtime; but they are obliged to work when so required. In this way, it is impossible to say what amount of labour they actually do at any particular period. They are quite at the mercy of the "zealous" superintendents, who may be anxious to get up the produce to favour their own interests; and it is melancholy to reflect that, on two distinct occasions, two different superintendents had each a present of £500 given to him after a greatly-increased produce, and a greatly-increased rate of mortality.

"Now, it is exactly among this class of men, whose labours I have just described, that we find any excessive mortality, which can only be accounted for on the supposition that it arises from overwork. I will not enter into detail, because I wish to avoid useless discussion; but there is no denying the fact, that the finest portion of the Morro Velho blacks—picked men, in the prime of life, who do the hard work—are dying off at a fearful rate; whilst the old and infirm—those who do little work—generally speaking, live as long there as anywhere else. If it should be said that this arises from the mine work being more unhealthy, then it requires to be explained why the English miners who superintend the blacks, and the free borers, who work when they please, and never do any overtime, are not so unhealthy. But, above all, it requires to be explained why the mine work is so unhealthy to the slaves at one time, and not so at another; and I wish to call particular attention to this fact.

"In 1847, the stamping power was unable to get through all the stone brought from the mine—that is to say, the then force of mine blacks easily broke more stone than the stamps could crush, and the mortality of the whole establishment, by the directors' own showing, was only 2 6-10 per cent. The first six months of 1848 also witnessed a very favourable rate of mortality; but after the whole of the new 36-head stamps went to work (I think in August or September), and every exertion was made to keep them supplied without exhausting the refuse heap, now nearly gone, then the mine blacks began to die off at a rate which the directors naively remark, 'has been met with before;' yet it never strikes them that this increased mortality has always occurred in conjunction with increased activity in the mine department. The surgeon said, in his annual report, 'We have been visited by three distinct epidemics; two in which influenza was the prevailing disease; the third, diarrhoea.'

"This, if true, would easily account for any unusual mortality; but these epidemics exist only in the imagination of the surgeon; for they

have been witnessed by no one else. On the other neighbouring establishments we hear nothing of epidemics or increased mortality; and it still requires to be explained why they should have seized on the picked men at Morro Velho, and left the old and infirm of the same place comparatively free. Besides all this, the directors are perfectly well aware that the surgeon, so late as last May, assigned another, and a very different reason for this great mortality, quite at variance with his previous statements.

"Such, in substance, are my reasons for believing the slaves at Morro Velho are overworked. I have been for seven years surgeon to the St. John Del Rey Company; and from January, 1848, to May, 1849, I did duty as manager of the blacks. My opinions have been formed and expressed whilst in their service, and not, as may be supposed, since I have been happily discharged by the superintendent. I am equally convinced this 'murderous system' will bring its own punishment. The directors are aware of the liabilities they have incurred for dead slaves; but they may not be aware that the establishment is fast being burdened with a number of living, but useless individuals. Sometime before I left I myself gave to the superintendent the names of upwards of 100 men who were disabled for hard work. If the directors, or shareholders, do not interfere to put an end to this state of things—if the infatuated superintendent is allowed to pursue his reckless course, unwarned by the surgeon, or unchecked by those only who have any control over him—deaths and sickness will continue to diminish the remaining effectual force; the Brazilians will not only refuse to hire their blacks, but those already hired will be taken away as soon as it can be done, and the whole concern must soon come to an abrupt and ruinous termination.

"London, Nov. 7.

"ROBERT MONACH."

MISSION OF INQUIRY TO THE WEST INDIES.

For some time past the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society have had in contemplation a mission of inquiry to the British Emancipated Colonies, for the purpose of ascertaining their present condition, but more especially to obtain exact information relative to the emancipated classes and immigrant labourers. To find gentlemen of intelligence and ability, with a competent knowledge of the anti-slavery question in all its bearings, was no easy matter; but the Committee are happy to say that Mr. George William Alexander, the Treasurer, and Mr. John Candler, Honorary Corresponding Member of the Society, have most kindly and generously undertaken the mission. It will be remembered that Mr. Alexander, on several occasions, has eminently served the anti-slavery cause in Europe, by visiting France, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Denmark, and Sweden, and that Mr. Candler has also rendered many services to the same cause by his visit to Jamaica, Hayti, &c. The Committee, feeling how much they were indebted to their friends for this act of self-sacrifice, have placed on their records the following minute, a copy of which has been furnished to them:—

"At a Meeting of the Committee, held at 27, New Broad Street, London, on Friday, the 12th day of October, 1849, Samuel Sturge, Esq., in the chair,

"It was resolved,—That the Committee, in placing on record the acceptance, by their much esteemed friends, George William Alexander, Esq. and John Candler, Esq., of their invitation to visit such of the British Emancipated and Foreign Colonies as may be accessible to them on a tour of inspection, would express their high satisfaction that they, together with their wives, have been induced to devote themselves to so arduous and self-denying a mission; and whilst they would affectionately and prayerfully commend them to the continual guidance, protection, and blessing of Divine Providence, they would also bespeak for them a warm and cordial reception by their friends, and all the aid that they may require in prosecuting the important objects they have in view.

(Signed)

"SAMUEL STURGE, Chairman.

"JOHN SCOBLE, Secretary."

The Committee are happy to say that their friends have been furnished by the British and French Governments with all necessary introductions to the authorities in the several Colonies; and, should they extend their tour beyond them, our Government has provided them with every necessary document to facilitate their inquiries. Messrs. Alexander and Candler embarked at Southampton on the 2nd of November, and are expected to be absent about 12 months.

The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER the 1st, 1849.

After ten years of earnest labour and willing sacrifice in the cause of human freedom, the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society find themselves put on their defence by the *Patriot* newspaper. Not content with opening its columns to the attacks of its correspondent, the writer of the articles "On the Slave-trade and the African Squadron," it has given intensity to those attacks, when by a little inquiry it might have had the means, either of repelling them altogether, or of correcting the errors into which its correspondent had fallen. Certainly, it was due to the Committee, before it lent its columns to any charge against them, to have ascertained its correctness; and not to have allowed a difference of opinion, as to the best mode of suppressing the slave-trade, to become a *casus belli* against the Society. If the opinions entertained by the Committee in working out its great object, the universal extinction of slavery and the slave-trade, be unsound, controvert them; or if the facts, on which they have founded their course of action, be either unreal, or will fairly admit of a different construction than that which they have put upon them, let it be shown: this would bring the matter in dispute to a proper issue; and by the decision fairly taken on that issue they would be content to abide.

The correspondent of the *Patriot* opens his attacks on "the modern Anti-slavery Society," as he terms it, by stating that "they have appropriated to themselves a name which gives them an influence with the world;" but that "they have bestowed their influence in favour of a movement directly opposed to the principles of the very party whose social name they have usurped." He then adds—"In the days of Mr. Zachary Macaulay, as we know from personal knowledge, accuracy of fact, and minute research to secure that accuracy, were considered not less indispensable than force of reasoning;" and, after assuming their ignorance or their bad faith, and the fairness with which he himself has interpreted the evidence laid before Parliament in relation to the slave-trade, he says, "but Parliament at least will appreciate their opinions and their pretensions as they deserve." All this is very cool—not to say offensive. The *Patriot*, however, endorses it with some additions of its own, wounding to the reputation of the Committee. After paying a tribute of respect to "the sincere philanthropy, the disinterested and self-devoted zeal in the cause of the oppressed, of JOSEPH STURGE, GEORGE WILLIAM ALEXANDER, JOSIAH FORSTER, and their associates," it says, "But we cannot allow them to appropriate the praise due to their precursors in the cause of abolition,—WILBERFORCE, STEPHEN, MACAULAY, LUSHINGTON, DENMAN, HENRY BROUGHAM, BUXTON, WILLIAM EVANS, and others, some of whom happily survive, and by their opinion and evidence have supplied the most emphatic refutation of the allegations of the *Times*, and of the courageous misrepresentations of the *Anti-Squadron* 'Reporter.' Nor," it goes on to say, "can we even allow the Broad-street Committee to be, in any exclusive sense, 'the acknowledged representatives of the abolition party,' as the *Times*, for its own sinister purpose, styles them. That Committee does not command a single representative in the House of Commons;" and, to give point to the sting, it adds, "Sir E. N. Buxton declined to take the chair at the last Annual Meeting of the Society, on the ground of their making common cause with the HUTTS, the JACKSONS, and the CLIFFES, in opposing the continuance of the squadron. DR. LUSHINGTON, LORD DENMAN, SIR R. H. INGLIS, COL. THOMPSON, SIR GEORGE STEPHEN, are, upon this point, not less decidedly opposed to the so-called representatives of the abolitionist party. The Broad-street Committee are, in fact, a simple minority, and their anti-coercion doctrine is a mere exception to the views of that great party, which we hope yet to see re-organised." Finally, still further to bring the Committee into discredit, it asserts that, when the Society was formed, "a distinct understanding was entered into, (but for which the names of DR. LUSHINGTON, SIR FOWELL BUXTON and others would never have appeared upon the Committee), that, upon this point, (the suppression of the slave-trade by the cruising squadron,) a strict neutrality was to be observed."

From these quotations it may be gathered that the existing Anti-slavery Society has usurped the name whilst it opposes the principles of the great party it fraudulently pretends to represent; that for fidelity of statement and accuracy of fact its Committee are

not to be depended upon; that they attempt to appropriate the praise due to their precursors in the cause of abolition, whilst they make common cause with their opponents; and that, in order to obtain the countenance and secure the official support of several distinguished persons, they pledged themselves, at the formation of the Society, to a strict neutrality on the question of suppressing the slave-trade by force, and that that pledge has been violated.

Such, in substance, are the charges and insinuations brought against the Society and its Committee, by the correspondent and editor of the *Patriot*. Let us see whether they can be sustained.

In the first place, the Committee most positively deny that any pledge, of the nature referred to, was either given or required; on the contrary, they affirm that it was distinctly understood that no individual, whatever his private sentiments might be, should advocate, either in Committee, or on the platform of the Society, any measures contrary to its fundamental principles, which strictly confine its action, in promoting the extinction of slavery and the slave-trade, to the use of those means which are moral, religious, and pacific in their character. On these terms, the honoured individuals whose names are mentioned by the *Patriot* gave their influence and their aid to the Society. SIR FOWELL BUXTON continued a member of the Committee up to the period of his decease; and, only a few months previous to that much-lamented event, he sent the Treasurer one hundred pounds in aid of its funds, and in token of his confidence; and DR. LUSHINGTON continued a member of the Committee up to the period of his negotiating the treaty with the Duc de Broglie, when he sent in his resignation, for obvious reasons, at the same time expressing the kindest sentiments towards his old colleagues; and, to show his undiminished confidence in them, he took the chair, at the Annual Meeting of the Society, in 1847. So much for the charge. But if additional facts were required to show the freedom of action claimed and used by the Committee, on the point at issue, they refer to the whole series of their Reports, in confirmation of their assertion, and in proof of the fidelity with which they have attempted to carry out the principles of the Society.

In the next place, it is asserted that the Committee seek to appropriate the praise due to their precursors, whilst they make common cause with those who are, or are suspected to be enemies of their principles. Neither of the charges involved here is true. The Committee venture to assert that, in no instance, have they attempted or desired to deprive the distinguished philanthropists named of the praise due to them for the eminent services they have rendered to the cause of abolition; all that they have aspired to do, has been to accomplish the work they left unfinished; and to imitate them in their untiring efforts and personal sacrifices, to deliver Africa from the scourge of the slave-trade, and the millions of her people who yet suffer, in distant lands, from the degradation of slavery. To deprive the living or the dead of the honour due to them for services rendered to the suffering and oppressed, never entered into the imaginings of the Committee, and they are persuaded that no act of theirs will bear so absurd an interpretation. To say that the Committee have made common cause with the enemies of their principles, is a mere calumny. The Committee fully sympathise with their precursors, both in principles and objects, and are as far removed from the principles and objects of "the Hutts, the Jacksons, and the Cliffes," as are the *Patriot* and its correspondent, as they understand and represent them. The question upon which the Committee differ from their opponents is not one of principle or object, but of mode. The Committee think they have as much knowledge of the past history of anti-slavery exertions, and as ripe an experience in anti-slavery matters, as those who traduce them; and that knowledge and experience they wish to make available to the anti-slavery cause. They have no objection to learn a useful lesson from an enemy, however much they may suspect his motives or question his designs. The Committee, whilst it proclaims the failure of the squadron to extinguish the slave-trade, proposes practical substitutes for its withdrawal, which they are convinced would, if adopted with the earnestness which their importance demands, not only terminate the slave-trade, but shake to their very foundations the systems of slavery which at present prevail both in the Spanish Colonies and Brazil. In their memorial to Government, in 1846, the Committee fully developed their opinions and their plans, and they refer to that document, as an answer to every calumny, and a full justification of their proceedings.

In the third place, the fidelity and accuracy of the Committee are impeached in matters of fact and detail. The Committee are

not aware that on any occasion, or to serve any purpose, have they misrepresented any persons, mis-stated any fact, or falsified any detail. They have had no reason or motive for so doing; and, above all, too much regard for their own character, either to do it themselves, or suffer others to do it for them, knowingly. They reject the accusation, and call upon those who have made it, either to retract or to justify it. The Committee know, as well as those who lightly accuse them, the admirable faculty possessed by the late Zachary Macaulay for research, and the general accuracy and ability displayed by that excellent man in the papers which he drew up; but they cannot allow that he was more conscientious or careful in submitting the results of his examinations to the public than they have been, however greatly he might excel them in the clearness of his analysis, and the vigour of his style.

In the last place, the Society is charged with having usurped the name, whilst it opposes the principles of the great party whom it pretends to represent. How far the Society has usurped its name or position will be seen when the Committee state, that after the abolition of negro apprenticeship had been happily accomplished, a Provisional Committee was formed of well-known friends of the cause, to correspond with the entire body of abolitionists then existing in the country. They addressed eleven hundred circulars to various members of the old Anti-slavery Organisations, embracing the anti-slavery delegates convened in London in 1833, and the members of the two Anti-slavery Committees, which had conducted the warfare with so much success against colonial slavery. The result was, that persons from various parts of the United Kingdom met, on the 17th of April, 1839, at Exeter Hall, and, after two days of careful and deliberate consideration, the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society was formed, its principles settled, and its mode of action determined. The leaders of the anti-slavery cause were there, and whoever will take the pains of looking over the names of the Committee then organised, will see that, without presumption, it might regard itself, and be regarded by others, as the representative of the great abolition party in this country. In steadily maintaining its principles, it has crossed the path of some of its old friends, as in its determined opposition to the introduction of slave-grown produce into the British markets. Then it was assailed as misrepresenting the abolitionists of this country, and as being leagued with the West Indians and Protectionists; and now, because it advises the withdrawal of the cruisers, and the substitution of better modes of suppressing the slave-trade, they are again assailed as misrepresenting the great party of abolitionists, and as making common cause with its enemies. The fact is, the Society is unchanged, the Committee is unchanged, in its purpose and action. Circumstances have developed its plans, and this has brought them into collision with many whom they greatly respect, but whom they think to be mistaken in their views. The use which has been made of Sir E. N. Buxton's name, the Committee are persuaded will not be sanctioned by him. He did not refuse to take the chair at the last meeting of the Society for the reason specified. Differing as Sir Edward did from the Committee, on the use of the African squadron, he thought it would be inconvenient to all parties that he should take the chair; in all other respects, he is with the Committee, and heartily supports the plans which they recommend for the abolition of the slave-trade and slavery.

In bringing their remarks to a close, the Committee would remind those who now condemn them, that the African Institution was not formed for the suppression of the slave-trade, but for the civilisation of Africa. The distinguished statesmen and philanthropists who formed it, thought that Africa was open, when the slave-trade was abolished by this country, to receive the arts of civilisation and commerce. They soon found, however, that the foreign African slave-trade was rapidly taking the place of that which had been destroyed, and their efforts were then directed to suppress it. After twenty years of labour, they found themselves defeated at every point, and they left on record, in their last report, these memorable words—"It is in slavery that the slave-trade has its origin. It is the market provided by the slaveholder which furnishes the direct incentive to all the crimes of a trade in slaves; to the murders and conflagrations which attend their capture; to the condensed horrors of the middle passage; and to the misery and degradation of a continent." The societies, formed for the abolition of colonial slavery, scarcely touched the question of the slave-trade, whilst engaged in their arduous struggle; and it was left for the British and Foreign Slavery Society to resume the consideration of

the question. By that Society it was taken up, at the very point where the African Institution left it, and its fundamental principle embodies the opinion, the fruit of long observation, which it gave to the world, in its last report, viz., "That so long as slavery exists, there is no reasonable prospect of the annihilation of the slave-trade, and of extinguishing the barter and sale of human beings, and that the extinction of slavery and the slave-trade will be attained most effectually by the employment of those means which are of a moral, religious, and pacific character; and that no measures be resorted to by this Society, in the prosecution of these objects, but such as are in entire accordance with these principles."

We regret that the news from the West Indies is not of a satisfactory character. There has been a riot, with loss of life, in Trinidad. Three women and a boy have been shot, and two of the former are dead from the wounds received. The accounts which have reached us, through public and private channels, prove most clearly that had the Legislative Council done its duty, in a prompt and conciliatory manner, when they found that they had committed an error in assenting to obnoxious gaol regulations for the punishment of poor debtors, it would not have happened. This is the third riot which has taken place in the West Indies, attended with the loss of life, during the last few years, from pure mismanagement or obnoxious legislation. The wonder is that more have not arisen. We trust the Government will cause a strict inquiry to be made into the origin of the late riots in St. Lucia and Trinidad, that the British public may know on whom the blame may properly be laid. There have also, we regret to say, been riots in Martinique and Guadaloupe, arising out of the late elections, attended with loss of life. We attribute them in great measure to the spirit of rivalry and faction. Judging from the accounts which have reached us, we are pained to observe that our old colleague, M. Bissette, has acted with great indiscretion, and, whether intentionally or not, is playing the game of the planters. In connexion with these outbreaks, we find a commission has been appointed by the French President, to be presided over by the Duc de Broglie, to consider the measures to be adopted in consequence of the changes brought about by the abolition of slavery in the French colonies. Looking at the names of many parties in this commission, their close connexion with the colonies, and their known antecedents, we fear that measures of a coercive character may be recommended by them to the National Assembly, especially in its present reactionary tendencies.

In another part of the *Reporter* will be found the rules which are in operation in the Danish colonies, for the government of the labouring population. It is impossible they can work well; and, unless they are administered in the spirit of the old slave system, they cannot continue. Such interference with the rights of labour, the question of wages, and the social intercourse, is utterly at variance with justice and common sense. We trust our friends in Denmark will look well to this subject.

The Californian gold-diggers have drafted the form of a Constitution for themselves, in which the old and abominable spirit of American prejudice against the coloured portion of their countrymen is shamefully betrayed. If, on the one hand, they have shut out black slaves, on the other they would deny the rights of citizenship to coloured men. This species of one-sided legislation must come to an end; the demon of caste must be exorcised from the American continent, or the day may come when it will lead to the most awful results.

Mr. James Richardson, the well-known and esteemed African traveller, is about to leave England for Northern Africa, under the auspices of the English Government. His principal object, it is understood, will be to obtain treaties with the various chiefs of the interior for the suppression of the slave-trade. He will be accompanied by two Prussian savans, who are engaged to make a scientific report on the country, &c.

The attention of our readers is respectfully directed to the letter of the Editor of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*, addressed to the Editor of the *Patriot*, which will be found in another part of our columns, in reply to certain remarks which appeared in its columns in reference to the slave-trade and its suppression.

THE SLAVE-TRADE AND THE AFRICAN SQUADRON.

To the Editor of the Patriot.

SIR,—From a communication which has been made to me, I learn that certain strictures of mine on the articles which have recently appeared in the *Patriot*, on "the Slave-trade and the African squadron," have been regarded as personally offensive. Now, as they were written with no such intention, but simply to mark my sense of the character of the articles themselves, I can have no objection whatever to withdraw any terms which may appear to imply the contrary. In any controversy in which I may be unfortunately engaged, I desire always to treat my opponents with courtesy, to deal fairly with their arguments, and to cultivate a supreme regard for truth.

But, certainly, if the terms which I used, in animadverting on the quality of the articles of your correspondent, excited your resentment, you should, at least, have forbore the use of terms as offensive as any that can be applied to a public writer. On this point, however, I need not dwell.

Separating my case from that of the Anti-slavery Committee, assailed in your columns, and which they will, no doubt, deal with in a manner becoming the position which they hold, it appears that I, the Editor of the *Reporter*—contrary to evidence, of course—have, first, had the "sippancy and cool audacity" to remark, that "the tone in which the several witnesses," (for "the continuance of the squadron, in some form or other, for the suppression of the slave-trade," "give their evidence," and the "conditions which they annex to it, render it in many respects of little value." Secondly, that the survivors of the illustrious band of abolitionists—WILBERFORCE, STEPHEN, MACAULAY, LUSHINGTON, DENMAN, HENRY BROUGHAM, BUXTON, WILLIAM EVANS, and others, have, by their opinion and evidence, supplied the most emphatic refutation of the courageous misrepresentations of the *Anti-squadron* "Reporter," as you term it. And, thirdly, that I, in the *Reporter* of Nov. 1, "never cite nor even allude to the Lords' Report, though dated the 23rd of July, and published a month ago," that is, about the middle of October, wherein it is said, "that all the evidence goes to prove, that the prevalent impression as to the general unhealthiness of the cruising squadron is without foundation; and further, that the withdrawal of the cruisers from the coast of Africa would cause a great immediate increase of the slave-trade, and would inflict most serious injury on the legitimate commerce of Africa."

Now, I beg to be heard on these several points, and, in doing so, I shall reverse their order.

First, in reference to the Lords' Report, I beg to say, that notwithstanding every attempt to obtain an early copy of it, it did not come into my hands until the 3rd of November, two days after the issue of the *Reporter*. Up to that time, so far as I am aware, it had not been referred to in any newspaper, not even the *Patriot*; nor need we wonder at this, for the Lords' Reports are not usually on sale, except when noble lords part with them, for a consideration, to persons who vend such things to the public. But now, having obtained and partially examined its bulky contents, I am by no means disposed to abandon the ground previously taken. On this point, however, I shall say no more at present, but reserve my remarks for a future opportunity.

Secondly, in reply to the alleged "courageous misrepresentations" of the *Reporter*, I beg to ask whom, or what I have misrepresented? I have faithfully extracted, and given through its columns, the evidence of the several witnesses examined before the Commons' Committee, both in favour of and against the African squadron; and have stated it as my opinion that the weight of evidence against its continuance, "as an efficient means of suppressing or repressing the slave-trade," immeasurably preponderates. There may be error, but there is no misrepresentation in this opinion. The evidence on which it is founded was given, and the readers of the *Reporter* had the means of judging for themselves, whether it were a fair deduction or not; and had it been transferred, with the opinion, to the columns of the *Patriot*, I should have had no fear of its adoption by the majority of its readers.

The suppression of the slave-trade by an African squadron commenced in 1819; but, in 1849, we still find it carried on to an enormous extent, and with increased atrocity. Setting aside the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, for the moment, we have the testimony of Lord Howden, late British minister at Rio, to the fact that upwards of 60,000 slaves were imported into Brazil in 1847, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the squadron to prevent it. During the year 1848, Mr. Westwood, the acting consul at Rio, estimates the number of slaves introduced into that district at 35,000, which, he says, was "quite adequate to the demand." The number, as far as it could be ascertained, imported into Bahia was 7,639. It is not improbable, that into other Brazilian ports an equal or larger number was imported. It also appears, from Lord Howden's evidence, that a new market has been opened in Rio Grande for slaves, and that, whereas five years ago there were not 500 in the province, there are now 15,000. We may, therefore, put the number of slaves introduced into Brazil last year at between

50,000 and 60,000. It is impossible to ascertain, with accuracy, what number of slaves was imported into the Spanish colonies during the two last years. We do not, however, think it exceeded 5,000 to 7,000, from the fact that an immense body of negroes, say 38,000, have been transferred from the ruined coffee plantations to the sugar estates in Cuba; and that an additional supply of slaves has lately been thrown on the market, in consequence of the railroads in that island being nearly completed. But whilst the imports of slaves into Brazil and the Spanish colonies have reached at least 120,000 during the last two years, the number of slaves captured in the same period, by our large and active squadron, has been only 13,306; and the cost connected with the service must, at least, have been one million and a half sterling! Now, we should not begrudge that sum, nor the twenty-five millions which, according to the testimony of Mr. Macqueen, had been previously expended on this branch of service, had the result been the suppression of the slave-trade; but when, after thirty years of anxious labour, the expenditure of vast sums of money, and the loss of many valuable lives, we find ourselves in our present position in relation to that horrible traffic, we may well suspect the wisdom of our proceedings, and should be led to inquire whether other and better modes of obtaining our object be within our power or not. I have myself arrived at the conviction that our course has been unwise; that we have assailed the slave-trade at the wrong point; and that our policy must be wholly changed if we would secure the end we have in view. This I have ventured to assert, again and again, in connexion with the evidence which forced the conviction upon my mind; and, in conjunction with others, have suggested modes of grappling with the evil which are plain and practical, and which you, Sir, in times past, have most cordially approved and recommended to the country.

Thirdly,—I have said that the evidence in favour of the squadron, as an efficient means of suppressing the slave-trade, is of little value, if we regard it in connexion with the conditions to which it is annexed. Far be it from me to speak lightly of those honoured and honourable persons, whose evidence, or rather whose opinions, I call in question. I cherish for some of them the sincerest respect, and feel it to be a most painful thing to differ from them; but, in the discharge of a public duty, I am bound honestly to state my convictions. But here let me correct an error of the press. I find, on referring to the last number of the *Reporter*, that I am made to say, after naming the witnesses who gave evidence in favour of the squadron, "but it will be perceived that the tone in which these several witnesses gave their evidence, and the conditions which they annex to it, render it in many respects of little value." What I meant to say was this, that the tone in which several of these witnesses gave their evidence, and the conditions which they annexed to it, rendered it in many respects of little value. The press was corrected during my absence from town, and hence the error. The facts on which I grounded my statements were, among others, as follows:—The Hon. Capt DENMAN proposes a specific plan, the strict blockade of the African coast by the squadron, which, in his evidence before Dr. LUSHINGTON and the Duc de BROGLIE, in 1845, he states to be 3,000 miles in extent. Sir CHARLES HOTHAM, examined both by the Commons' and the Lords' Committees, estimates the coast watched by the cruisers at 2,195 miles; but distinctly declares Captain Denman's plan to be incapable of execution, except on a line of coast not greater than 100 miles. It will be seen, on reference to Captain DENMAN's evidence, that, in addition to the blockade, an "universal right of search" is "indispensable" to its efficiency,—a right which neither the United States nor France will concede;—that "a personal penalty or punishment should be inflicted on all persons engaged in the traffic,"—a thing which none of the powers with whom we have treaties will allow us to do;—"that the slave depôts should be broken up,—that the slave factories should be destroyed,—that commercial posts should be established in the neighbourhood of the places where the slave-trade is carried on, for the encouragement of legitimate commerce, missionary labours, &c.,—and that the liberated slaves at Sierra Leone should be employed to excite a salutary horror of the slave-trade among the natives." Such are the conditions which Captain Denman annexes to a strict blockade, and which he considers essential to uproot the horrid traffic. These conditions, in their most essential particulars, cannot be realised. Captain MATSON, whose evidence is much relied on, conceives that the slave-trade may be put down by the squadron, provided it be increased in number and efficiency. In his calculation, only 1,000 miles of the African coast is open to the slave-trade; and to effect his object, he would require from 26 to 28 vessels, one-half steamers, or 22, if they were all steamers, and for reliefs he would add another 12—in all, from 34 to 40 vessels; but, in addition to this, there must be treaties with the African chiefs, giving this country the power to destroy barracoons and goods employed in the slave-trade, and the right of declaring war if the treaties were violated; but Capt. Matson is of opinion that such treaties cannot be obtained until the slave-trade has been abolished, and all hopes of its revival done away. Com. BIRCH, another witness in favour of the squadron, tells us that the effective force of the squadron must be trebled, the slave-traders punished as pirates, and the barracoons destroyed, or that "we may go on with the squadron that we have now on the coast to

all eternity." I give these as specimens of the conditions which the strongest witnesses for the squadron insist on, as necessary to the extirpation of the slave-trade; and I ask, whether it is possible to realise them? But let us suppose, for a moment, that the squadron were increased in number and efficiency, and that the traffic were driven, by a close blockade, from those parts of the western coast of Africa where it is now carried on, what is to hinder its breaking out at either end, north or south, of the present cruising ground? Besides, to accomplish your object, you must blockade the east and north coasts of Africa, as well as the west and south; for, if you leave any part unwatched, to that part the traffic will go. Now, let these facts be taken into consideration, and does it not follow, to use the language of Lord John Russell, that, "under such circumstances, to repress the foreign slave-trade by a marine guard could scarcely be possible, if the whole British navy could be employed for that purpose?"

The greatest importance was attached to the treaty negotiated between Great Britain and France, in 1845, through the instrumentality of Dr. Lushington and the Duc de Broglie. The perfect understanding which existed between them, and the harmony which has characterised the movements of the French and English squadrons on the coast, might have been expected to lead to the happiest results; but what does Dr. Lushington say, in his evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons? Why, that the squadron, in its most efficient state, commanded by officers of unquestioned ability, "has certainly not attained one end which he contemplated and hoped it would, either in the suppression or diminution of the slave-trade." And he further gave it as his opinion, that "by the application of any force which this country could now apply to the object, looking at the present causes stimulating the slave-trade, it would not be practicable to suppress the slave-trade, or put a stop to it, but merely to diminish it to a certain extent." Nothing can be more striking than the testimony of Sir Charles Hotham, late in command of the squadron, as to the impracticability of putting down the slave-trade by force. He says distinctly that, notwithstanding the efficiency and activity of the cruisers under his command, assisted by the French and American squadrons, "our present measures are perfectly futile;" that they have not crippled, much less put a permanent stop to the slave-trade. Captain Chads is of the same opinion, as are also a large number of naval officers, who have recently served in the squadron, among whom we name Lord John Hay, one of the Lords of the Admiralty, who, in addition to his personal testimony, says—"The Admiralty consider that Sir Charles Hotham carried out his instructions to the letter, with great judgment and zeal, and to the entire satisfaction of the Board." To the same purport we might also quote the opinion of Captain Mansell, who preceded Sir C. Hotham in the command of the squadron, but it is unnecessary; and again we say that the evidence against the squadron vastly preponderates. Into the question, what number of vessels may be required to protect British interests on the coast of Africa, it has been no business of mine to enter, and on it I give no opinion. Sir Charles Hotham says that eight vessels would be sufficient for this service, and another officer says two, provided outward and homeward bound men-of-war would touch on the coast on their voyages. I have confined my observations exclusively to the squadron in its relation to the suppression of the slave-trade.

From the information which has reached this country, there can be no doubt that the French squadron will be withdrawn, or reduced to a number merely sufficient to protect French commerce. The American squadron is not larger than is necessary for a similar purpose; it is, therefore, clear that we cannot expect much aid from these quarters, in future, in the suppression of the slave-trade. Looking, then, at all the circumstances of the case—considering what is possible and practicable—may I not reiterate the language of Lord Grey, on the slave-trade and its abolition, in confirmation of my own views—"I do think that we ought seriously to consider whether this is a policy in which we ought to persevere."

But, it may be said, if you withdraw the squadron you will give a frightful impetus to the slave-trade. To this I reply, no; if you at once substitute for it the recommendations of the Anti-slavery Committee; recommendations which it is within the competency of Government to adopt and apply—recommendations which are just, reasonable, and practicable—which are perfectly consistent with good faith and national honour, the laws of Spain and Brazil, and the highest interests of humanity and freedom.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THE EDITOR OF THE "ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER."

London, Nov. 24, 1849.

THE DANISH WEST INDIA ISLANDS,

PROVISIONAL ACT TO REGULATE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PROPRIETORS OF LANDED ESTATES AND THE RURAL POPULATION OF FREE LABOURERS.

I, Peter Hansen, Knight Commander of the Order of Dannebrog, the

King's Commissioner for, and officiating Governor-General of, the Danish West India Islands—

Make known: That whereas the Ordinance dated the 29th July, 1848, by which yearly contracts for labour on landed estates were introduced, has not been duly acted upon; whereas the interest of the proprietors of estates, as well as of the labourers, requires that their mutual obligations should be defined; and whereas, on inquiry into the practice of the island, and into the private contracts and agreements hitherto made, it appears expedient to establish uniform rules throughout the island for the guidance of all parties concerned—it is enacted and ordained:

Paragraph 1. All engagements of labourers now domiciled on landed estates, and receiving wages in money, or in kind, for cultivating and working such estates, are to be continued, as directed by the Ordinance of 29th July, 1848, until the first day of October of the present year; and all similar engagements shall in future be made, or shall be considered as having been made, for a term of twelve months, viz., from the first of October till the first of October, year after year.

Engagements made by heads of families are to include their children between five and fifteen years of age, and other relatives depending on them and staying with them.

2. No labourer engaged as aforesaid in the cultivation of the soil, shall be discharged or dismissed from, nor shall be permitted to dissolve, his or her engagement before the expiration of the same on the first of October of the present, or of any following year, except in the instances herein-after enumerated:

A. By mutual agreement of master and labourer before a magistrate.

B. By order of a magistrate, on just and equitable cause being shown by the parties interested.

Legal marriage, and the natural tie between mothers and their children, shall be deemed by the magistrate just and legal cause of removal from one estate to another. The husband shall have the right to be removed to his wife, the wife to her husband, and children under fifteen years of age to their mother, provided no objection to employing such individuals shall be made by the owner of the estate to which the removal is to take place.

3. No engagement of a labourer shall be lawful in future unless made in the presence of witnesses, and entered in the day-book of the estate.

4. Notice to quit service shall be given by the employer, as well as by the labourer, at no other period but once a year in the month of August, not before the first, nor after the last day of the said month. An entry thereof shall be made in the day-book, and an acknowledgment in writing shall be given to the labourer.

The labourer shall have given, or received, legal notice of removal from the estate where he serves before any one can engage his services; otherwise the new contract to be void, and the party engaging or tampering with a labourer employed by others will be dealt with according to law.

In case any owner or manager of an estate should dismiss a labourer during the year without sufficient cause, or should refuse to receive him at the time stipulated, or refuse to grant him a passport when due notice of removal has been given, the owner or manager is to pay full damages to the labourer, and to be sentenced to a fine not exceeding 20 dollars.

5. Labourers employed or rated as first, second, or third-class labourers shall perform all the work in the field, or about the works, or otherwise concerning the estate, which it hitherto has been customary for such labourers to perform, according to the season. They shall attend faithfully to their work, and willingly obey the directions given by the employer, or the person appointed by him. No labourer shall presume to dictate what work he, or she, is to do, or refuse the work he may be ordered to perform, unless expressly engaged for some particular work only. If a labourer thinks himself aggrieved, he shall not therefore leave the work, but in due time apply for redress to the owner of the estate, or to the magistrate.

It is the duty of all labourers, on all occasions, and at all times, to protect the property of their employer, to prevent mischief to the estate, to apprehend evil-doers, and not to give countenance to, or conceal, unlawful practices.

6. The working days to be, as usual, only five days in the week, and the same days as hitherto. The ordinary work of estates is to commence at sunrise, and to be finished at sunset every day, leaving one hour for breakfast, and two hours at noon, from 12 to 2 o'clock.

Planters who prefer to begin the work at 7 o'clock in the morning, making no separate breakfast time, are at liberty to adopt this plan, either during the year, or when out of crop.

The labourers shall be present in due time at the place where they are to work. The list to be called and answered regularly; whoever does not answer the list when called, is too late.

7. No throwing of grass, or of wood shall be exacted during extra hours, all former agreements to the contrary notwithstanding; but during crop the labourers are expected to bring home a bundle of longtops from the field where they are at work.

Cartmen and crookpeople, when breaking off, shall attend properly to their stock as hitherto usual.

8. During crop the mill gang, the crook gang, boilermen, firemen, stillmen, and any other persons employed about the mill and the boiling-house, shall continue their work during breakfast and noon hours, as hitherto usual; and the boilermen, firemen, megass carriers, &c., also during evening hours after sunset, when required; but all workmen employed as aforesaid shall be paid an extra remuneration for the work done by them in extra hours.

The boiling-house is to be cleared, the mill to be washed down, and the megass to be swept up, before the labourers leave the works, as hitherto usual.

The mill is not to turn after six o'clock in the evening, and the boiling not to be continued after ten o'clock, except by special permission of the Governor-general, who then will determine if any, and what, extra remuneration shall be paid to the labourers.

9. The labourers are to receive, until otherwise ordered, the following remuneration:—

A. The use of a house, or dwelling-rooms for themselves and their children, to be built and repaired by the estate, but to be kept in proper order by the labourers.

B. The use of a piece of provision-ground, thirty feet in square, as usual, for every first and second-class labourer; or if it be standing-

ground, up to fifty feet in square. Third-class labourers are not entitled to, but may be allowed some provision-ground.

C. Weekly wages, at the rate of 15 cents to every first-class labourer, of 10 cents to every second-class labourer, and of 5 cents to every third-class labourer, for every working day.

Where the usual allowance of meal and herrings has been agreed on in part of wages, full weekly allowance shall be taken for 5 cents a day, or 25 cents a week.

Nurses losing two hours every working day shall be paid at the rate of four full working days in the week.

The wages of minors to be paid as usual to their parents, or to the person in charge of them.

Labourers not calling at pay-time personally, or by another authorised, to wait till next pay-day, unless they were prevented by working for the estate.

No attachment of wages for private debts to be allowed, nor more than two-thirds to be deducted for debts to the estate, unless otherwise ordered by the magistrate.

Extra provisions, occasionally given during the ordinary working hours, are not to be claimed as a right, nor to be bargained for.

10. Work in extra hours, during crop, is to be paid as follows:—

To the mill gang and the crook gang, for working through the breakfast hour, one stiver, and for working through noon two stivers per day.

Extra provision is not to be given, except at the option of the labourers, in place of the money, or in part of it.

The boilermen, firemen, and megass carriers are to receive, for all days when the boiling is carried on until late hours, a maximum pay of 20 cents per day. No bargaining for extra pay by the hour is permitted.

Labourers working such hours only by turns are not to have additional payment.

11. Tradesmen on estates are considered as engaged to perform the same work as hitherto usual, assisting in the field carting, potting sugar, &c. They shall be rated as first, second, and third-class labourers, according to their proficiency. Where no definite terms have been agreed on previously, the wages of first-class tradesmen, having full work in their trade, are to be twenty (20) cents per day. Any existing contract with tradesmen is to continue until October next.

No tradesman is allowed to keep apprentices without the consent of the owner of the estate. Such apprentices to be bound for no less period than three years, and not to be removed without permission of the magistrate.

12. No labourer is obliged to work for others on Saturdays, but if they choose to work for hire, it is proper that they should give their own estate the preference. For a full day's work on Saturday there shall not be asked for nor given more than:—

Twenty (20) cents to a first-class labourer, thirteen (13) cents to a second-class labourer, seven (7) cents to a third-class labourer.

Work on Saturday may, however, be ordered by the magistrate as a punishment to the labourer, for having absented himself from work during the week for one whole day or more, and for having been idle during the week; and then the labourer shall not receive more than his usual pay for a common day's work.

13. All the male labourers, tradesmen included, above eighteen years of age, working on an estate, are bound to take the usual night watch by turns, but only once in ten days. Notice to be given before noon to break off from work in the afternoon with the nurses, and to come to work next day at eight o'clock. The watch to be relieved in the usual manner by nightfall and by sunrise.

The above rule shall not be compulsory, except where voluntary watchmen cannot be obtained, at a hire the planters may be willing to give, to save the time lost by employing their ordinary labourers as watchmen.

Likewise the male labourers are bound, once a month, on Sundays and holidays, to take the day watch about the yard, and to act as pasture men, on receiving their usual pay for a week-day's work. This rule applies also to the crook-boys.

All orders about the watches to be duly entered in the day-book of the estate.

Should a labourer, having been duly warned to take the watch, not attend, another labourer is to be hired in the place of the absentee, and at his expense, not, however, to exceed fifteen cents. The person who wilfully leaves the watch, or neglects it, is to be reported to the magistrate, and punished as the case merits.

14. Labourers wilfully abstaining from work on a working day are to forfeit their wages for the day, and will have to pay over and above the forfeit a fine, which can be lawfully deducted in their wages, of seven (7) cents for a first-class labourer, five (5) cents for a second-class labourer, and two (2) cents for a third-class labourer.

In crop, on grinding days, when employed about the works, in cutting canes or in crook, an additional punishment will be awarded for wilful absence and neglect, by the magistrate, on complaint being made.

Labourers abstaining from work for half a day, or breaking off from work before being dismissed, to forfeit their wages for one day.

Labourers not coming to work in due time to forfeit half a day's wages.

Parents keeping their children from work shall be fined instead of the children.

No charge of house rent is to be made in future on account of absence from work, or for the Saturday.

15. Labourers wilfully abstaining from work for two or more days during the week, or habitually absenting themselves, or working badly and lazily, shall be punished according to law, on investigation before a magistrate.

16. Labourers assaulting any person in authority on the estate, or planning and conspiring to retard, or to stop, the work of the estate, or uniting to abstain from work or to break their engagements, shall be punished according to law, on investigation before a magistrate.

17. Until measures can be adopted for securing medical attendance to the labourers, and for regulating the treatment of the sick and the infirm, it is ordered:—

That infirm persons, unfit for any work, shall as hitherto be maintained on the estates where they are domiciled, and be attended to by their next relations.

That parents or children of such infirm persons shall not remove from the estate, leaving them behind, without making provision for them to the satisfaction of the owner, or of the magistrate.

That labourers unable to attend to work on account of illness, or on account of having sick children, shall make a report to the manager, or any other person in authority on the estate, who, if the case appears dangerous and the sick person destitute, shall cause medical assistance to be given.

That all sick labourers willing to remain in the hospital during their illness, shall there be attended to at the cost of the estate.

18. If a labourer reported sick shall be at any time found absent from the estate without leave, or is trespassing about the estate, or found occupied with work requiring health, he shall be considered skulking and wilfully absent from work.

When a labourer pretends illness, and is not apparently sick, it shall be his duty to prove his illness by medical certificate.

19. Pregnant women shall be at liberty to work with the small gang as customary, and when confined not to be called on to work for seven weeks after their confinement.

Young children shall be fed and attended to during the hours of work at some proper place, at the cost of the estate.

Nobody is allowed to stay from work on pretence of attending a sick person, except the wife and the mother, in dangerous cases of illness.

20. It is the duty of the managers to report to the police any contagious or suspicious cases of illness and death; especially when gross neglect is believed to have taken place, or when children have been neglected by their mothers, in order that the guilty person may be punished according to law.

21. The driver or foreman on the estate is to receive in wages four and a half dollars monthly, if no other terms have been agreed on. The driver may be dismissed at any time during the year with the consent of the magistrate. It is the duty of the driver to see the work duly performed, to maintain order and peace on the estate, during the work and at other times, and to prevent and report all offences committed. Should any labourer insult, or use insulting language towards him during, or on account of, the performance of his duties, such person is to be punished according to law.

22. No labourer is allowed without the special permission of the owner or manager to appropriate wood, grass, vegetables, fruits, and the like, belonging to the estate, nor to appropriate such produce from other estates, nor to cut canes, or to burn charcoal. Persons making themselves guilty of such offences shall be punished according to law with fines, or imprisonment with hard labour; and the possession of such articles not satisfactorily accounted for, shall be sufficient evidence of unlawful acquisition.

23. All agreements contrary to the above rules are to be null and void, and owners and managers of estates convicted of any practice tending wilfully to counteract or avoid these rules, by direct or indirect means, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding 200 dollars.

P. HANSEN.

Government House, St. Croix, 26th January, 1849.

THE SLAVES OF THE ST. JOHN DEL REY MINES.

To the Editor of the Daily News.

SIR,—I beg to enclose you a copy of a petition which I have drawn up on behalf of the slaves employed by the St. John del Rey Mining Company in Brazil, to be presented to the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

I am, Sir, &c.

Nov. 13.

W. ROUTH.

"To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal; and to the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

"The humble petition of William Routh.

"Your petitioner humbly begs that you will be pleased to cause an inquiry to be made into the state and management of the establishment of the St. John Del Rey Mining Company, which is situated at Morro Velho, in the province of Minas Geraes, in Brazil, belonging to an English Company in this city, their offices being in 8, Tokenhouse-yard, and the chairman of the same is Mr. John Diston Powles, of No. 1, New Bank-buildings, Secretary to the London Dock Company. The mine of this company is worked almost exclusively by slaves (there are now upwards of 1,000 men, women and children on the establishment,) there being great difficulty in obtaining free labour, owing to the scanty population of the country, the unhealthy occupation of the underground workmen, and the general disinclination of the Brazilians to go underground, where the mortality, either from disease or from accidents incidental to mining, is much greater than amongst the classes employed on the surface. Since June, 1848, the mortality amongst the underground slaves has been most frightful. This has been occasioned by the superintendent at the mine insisting on the slaves working to such an extent, to keep up the produce, that they die from diseases rendered fatal by the exhaustion caused by overwork. The mine is worked for the purpose of extracting gold. To effect this, two deep holes are bored in the stone, which is of the hardest nature. This is taskwork, and the slaves are forced to complete the boring of these two holes before leaving the mine.

"The regular hours of work are said to be eight; but, in reality, the slaves work twelve underground; four of these hours are termed 'overtime,' but, although the superintendent would wish to make it appear that they work 'overtime' of their own free will, your petitioner can bring evidence to prove that the contrary is the case. So far from its being so, the superintendent has overseers employed to hunt the slaves out of hiding places, whither they resort to avoid working, after havin

completed their 'set tasks.' From January 1, to July 3, forty-three deaths have occurred among the underground slaves. The number of slaves working underground is 170 borers, and about ninety-six kibble fillers, &c. &c., but very often the first are employed in the place of the latter, and *vice versa*.

"This awful mortality has been caused by overwork; with the exception of five slaves, who met their deaths from accident. No doubt the accounts from the mines received since the 3rd of July record more deaths.

"In June, 1848, a new 36-head stamps was erected to crush the stone from which the gold is extracted, and the great mortality has ensued since that period; from June, 1848, to 31st December, the deaths were in the same ratio as those now mentioned, viz. from 1st January, 1849, to 3rd July. The slaves formerly broke nineteen tons of stone per month per each slave. Afterwards they were obliged to break the enormously increased quantity of twenty-eight and twenty-nine tons, but this has been at the expense of many lives; and your petitioner scruples not to aver that they have been murdered; it is not too harsh a term to use. This kind of work (boring) requires men of the strongest constitution, and then they ought not to be in the mine more than four or five hours per day; but the superintendent sacrifices everything to the obtaining of gold. The lives of the slaves are as nothing compared to this object; but so notorious is Morro Velho become for the excessive mortality, that it has passed into a proverb in the country. In speaking of hiring slaves to Morro Velho, slave owners say they will not send their slaves to the 'slaughter-house.' The freemen who work inside the mine never work 'overtime.' How is it, then, that if, as the superintendent states, the working 'overtime' is such a boon, they do not avail themselves of it?

"Your petitioner does not mean to assert that the directors of this company did not give instructions to the superintendent to treat the slaves well, and do everything to promote their comfort. They did so, but the misfortune is, that the chairman (Mr. Powles) will not believe that this frightful and horrible mortality proceeds from overworking the slaves, although two medical men of this city, who have examined into the medical reports received from the mine, are of this opinion; and two gentlemen who have recently arrived from thence, state that the slaves are murdered from overworking them, and the fact of the great increase of work done by each slave, which has caused the death of so many fine and robust negroes, is undeniable and irresistible evidence of the truth of what your petitioner alleges. At this time, when from deaths and from removal, the number of slaves working in the mine at Morro Velho is much diminished, it is evident that to keep up the rate of produce of gold, the slaves will be compelled to work still more, and it is for this reason that your petitioner humbly urges upon you the necessity of putting a stop to this hideous sacrifice of human life, by adopting such measures as will compel the superintendent to diminish the hours of work.

In the other mining establishments in Brazil the mortality is very trifling—the labour of the slaves being considerably less; and it is a disgrace to this company, both in Brazil and here, that its name should be blazoned forth as the 'slaughter-house' of the unfortunate slaves who are compelled to work there.

"The chairman of this company, in a circular letter addressed to the shareholders, dated 19th of October, gives long extracts from the instructions which were given to the superintendent at the time he quitted this country for Brazil; but with respect to slavery there cannot be two opinions.

"Your petitioner would beg to call your attention to the monstrous incongruity of British subjects possessing slaves, hiring them—in fact, purchasing; them—when her Majesty's Government is endeavouring, by every means, to abolish slavery! Does the chairman mean it to be understood that the company employs slaves solely through benevolent and philanthropic feelings? Who will believe it? Your petitioner affirms, that the only reason why these slaves are employed in working the mine is for the sole object of obtaining large supplies of gold, without caring for the lives of the slaves; and it is the veriest hypocrisy in the chairman of this company to issue a statement to the world, that the company is benefiting these unfortunate and miserable beings, when it is well known their lives are sacrificed to the lust for gold.

"Your petitioner would beg to impress upon you that, although it would not be expedient or prudent to liberate at once the slaves possessed by the company, yet her Majesty's Government should insist upon its not hiring more slaves, and restoring to their owners those whom they have already hired, which would be the means of saving their lives; and, further, the hours of work should be so reduced, that the slaves who remain in the possession of the company should not become the victims of an unbounded thirst for gold.

"To prevent a continuance of this accursed system of overworking the slaves, your petitioner humbly prays that you will take such steps as will enable her Majesty's minister at Rio Janeiro at once to put in force regulations with respect to the management of this establishment in Brazil, that will effectually prevent the recurrence of similar proceedings on the part of the superintendent at the mine."

Foreign Intelligence.

UNITED STATES.—KENTUCKY.—Considerable excitement has existed in Kentucky for some time, in view of the proposed Convention to inquire into the question of slavery, and as to its ultimate extinction. The time for its session having arrived, we have received a lengthened account of its proceedings. We cannot, however, do more than give a summary, with one or two extracts of importance.

On the 10th October, Mr. Gray submitted a proposition, providing that whenever any specific amendment to the Constitution were adopted by a majority of each of the two Houses of the Legislature, it should be submitted to the people at the next election for members, and, if a majority of all the electors of the State voted in favour of it, it should be referred to the next Legislature, and, if a majority of each House should approve of it, it should be again submitted to the people at the election to be held for members of another Legislature, when, if again sustained by a majority of the whole number of electors in the State, it should become *law*—provided, however, that the article concerning slavery should never be changed, unless by a vote of two-thirds of each House of the Legislature at two successive sessions, and by a vote of a majority of the people at two successive elections.

The proposition is one of many introduced in the Convention, showing the anxiety of the slaveholders to deprive the people virtually of the power of altering their Constitution, especially in respect of slavery.

On the same day, Mr. Meriwether, from the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution and Slaves, reported a series of provisions relating to slavery, of which we present a summary:—

The General Assembly to have no power to emancipate the slaves already in being, or who shall be born of slave mothers, without the consent of their owners, or paying them a full equivalent in money; and masters to have no right to emancipate their slaves, without provision for their removal from, and against their return to, the State.

To have power to prevent the importation of slaves, as merchandise, into the State; to provide, by law, for the removal of all free negroes and mulattoes now in the State.

To be obliged to pass laws making it felony, punishable by confinement in the Penitentiary, for any free person of colour to immigrate into the State, or, once emancipated, to remain in the State.

The Convention then went into committee on the whole of the propositions of Mr. Turner. He commenced by saying:—

"There is about sixty-one millions of dollars' worth of slave property in Kentucky, which produce less than three per cent. profit on the capital invested, or about half as much as the monied capital would yield. But, suppose the net profit to be three per cent., it is a proposition that is susceptible of demonstration, that it is not our interest to increase this property. I have made a little calculation, which I will submit to the committee; and, I believe, if there be any error in it, it will be found on the side of making slave labour more valuable than it really is; and, by that calculation, I cannot make the profit to be more than three per cent. There are about two hundred thousand slaves in Kentucky. Of these, about three-fourths are superannuated, sick, women in a condition not profitable for labour, and infants not able to work, who yield no net profit. Show me the man who has forty or fifty slaves upon his estate, and if there are ten out of that number who are valuable and available, it is as much as you can expect. But my calculation allows you to have three-fourths that are barely able to maintain themselves, to pay for their own clothing, fuel, house-room, and doctor's bills. Is there any gentleman here, who has a large number of slaves, who will say that they are more profitable than that? I do not believe there is one. Well, then, we have the one-fourth left. This leaves fifty thousand labourers, and I put the value of their labour at sixty dollars each per annum. This will produce three millions of dollars annually. But from this you must deduct at least twenty dollars per head for raiment, food, house-room, and doctor's bills, and that amounts to a million of dollars. Is this deduction too little? Is there any individual here who will say that a grown, working negro does not cost his master, leaving out of the question what he steals from him and sells at the nearest town—is there any one that will say that an average expense of twenty dollars for this class of slaves is too small an estimate? This, then, will make a million of dollars, and there will be only a profit of two millions left. You must also deduct about five per cent. from the value of all the slaves for deaths, which leaves the net profit on the capital of sixty-one million of dollars, about one million six hundred and ninety-five thousand, which is less than three per cent., or about half as much as the monied capital would yield; and this valuation is a very liberal one for the slavery importation side of the question—as every one must acknowledge who has had any experience in the matter. This estimate is at least a fair one, applied to the part of the country where I live, and I believe that slave property is as well managed there as it is anywhere. It is true, the man may have upon his farm only such slaves as are able to work. He may have no women or children among them, and he will, in such case, make a little

more profit. But if you take the whole slave property together, the average will be as I have stated.

"Well, then, in a pecuniary point of view, as a mere calculation of dollars and cents, if I am right in my estimate, it is not our interest to invest more capital in slave property. It is against the interest of the Commonwealth to do it; manifestly so, if I am right, or anywhere near right."

Mr. Turner proceeded to show that this species of "property" was destined to become less valuable in all the border slave States, owing to the facilities of escape afforded to the slaves, and, in this connexion, made the following admission—remarkable, as coming from a pro-slavery man:—

"Now, I make use of one observation which, probably, some gentleman may take exception to. I say, there is no man living that sees in the hand of Providence what I see, that does not perceive that there is a power at work above us that is above all human institutions, and one that will yet prevail, even in Virginia, Maryland, and Kentucky. Yes, there is a power at work which is above all human power, and one which we cannot resist."

"I do not say that I desire this; but that it is coming—that it is as steadily marching upon us as we are marching forward to the grave, and that we do not know when it will come, is perfectly certain from the evidence around us; and, should we go on investing our capital in this property, we shall find this to be the case. Why, Sir, in the State of Maryland, there is already a great diminution in the value of that kind of property. I do not say that there is a positive diminution in the State of Virginia, but it ceases to increase to the extent that it did formerly. The shadow upon the sun-dial is advancing sufficiently to show that this is not growing or increasing in that State; at all events, that the increase is not so great as in time past. And the same thing has already commenced in Kentucky; and this proceeds from the power which we cannot resist. We may tie it up—I desire that it should be restricted by whatever legislation we may adopt upon that subject—but when the Deity has sent forth his fiat that this institution is to cease, it will cease, and no human effort can arrest it."

In another part of his speech, Mr. Turner denounced the importation of slaves from other States as identical with the African slave-trade, and said that almost every slave State, except, perhaps, Arkansas and Texas, was making "negro-raising a business to obtain a living by."

"You see almost every slave State, except probably Texas and Arkansas, are making negro-raising a business to obtain a living by. It may be said that wheat is the staple production of Virginia; but I say that negroes are the staple production in reality. As to Tennessee, I am told that there was not a man elected to the Legislature who was not pledged to support a measure against bringing any more slaves into the State."

Can these things be, and not excite our special horror? Mr. Turner, be it remembered, is a slaveholder, and a pledged enemy to every scheme of emancipation; but he appeals to every member of the Convention for the truth of his statement, that the staple production of Virginia is negroes—that almost every slave State, except Arkansas and Texas, "is making negro-raising a business to live by." Breeding human beings, made in the image of God, to sell in the shambles, "to make a living by!"

The subject was resumed the next day in Committee of the whole. Mr. C. A. Wickliffe remarked that he thought the question of slavery had been settled at the ballot-box—a discussion on its merits would much better suit the latitudes north of Mason and Dixon's line.

Mr. Stephenson was opposed to the proposition of Mr. Turner. He desired equal rights! Every man should have the privilege of buying slaves where he could—but he was opposed to "the traffic in human blood."

Mr. Talbott would say to the gentleman from Madison, (Mr. Turner,) that he held slavery to be "neither a sin nor a moral evil," and was prepared to prove that it was justified and approved by the Scriptures themselves.

"Mr. Turner.—I do not understand the teachings of the Gospel as justifying this institution as it stands, and I never will advocate what I do not believe."

Mr. Meriwether thought that should the legislature, as was proposed by some, be prohibited from preventing the importation of slaves as merchandise, it would endanger the Constitution with the people.

Mr. Clark was against giving the legislature any power, at any time, to legislate on the question of slavery in any form.

Mr. Garfield.—"I rise to express the opinion that the resolution of the gentleman from Madison should not be laid on the table, as suggested by some here. There are a couple of literary gems in embryo here, twin brothers, that I would like to see developed to this house. The first is the political, philosophical axiom that slavery is a moral blessing to both the slave and his master, and a political blessing to the commonwealth. The second is, the divine axiom that the Being who descended from heaven to free mankind from the shackles of sin, came also to assist in riveting the shackles of human despotism. I hope a full and fair oppor-

tunity will be granted for the development of both these principles, so entirely new and strange as they are."

After all, there is some heterodoxy in the Convention.

The following day the subject again came up in Committee of the whole, and the question being taken on an amendment moved by Mr. Nuttall, to allow any citizen of Kentucky the right to import slaves for his own use, it was carried!

FRANCE.—The President of the Republic, on the report of the Minister of Marine, has ordered the formation of a commission, to be presided over by the Duc de Broglie, and to be composed of the following members:—MM. H. Passy, De Tracy, Admiral Cecile, Admiral Laine, de Laussat, Bething de Lancastelle, Fournier, Hubert de Lisle, representatives; MM. Jubelin and Behic, councillors of State; M. Isambert, councillor of the Court of Cassation; M. Galos, ex-director of the Colonies; M. Mestro, director of the Colonies; M. Sully-Brunet, ex-delegate of the colonies; M. Demoly, councillor of the Court of Appeal, Martinique; and M. Lepelletier Saint Remy, Chef de Bureau of the Colonies, as Secretary. The object of the commission is to consider the best mode to be adopted in consequence of the change in the Colonies, by the abolition of slavery, and the alteration in the legislative and judicial régime, from their being admitted to be represented in the National Assembly.—*Sun*, Nov. 26.

PORTUGAL.—I have seen accounts, by a recent arrival from Angola, to the beginning of Sept. last. The Governor-General had just returned from the inauguration of a new colony founded at Massamedes, in lat. 15 south. The settlement is to be peopled by Portuguese emigrants returned from Pernambuco, whence they have been driven by persecution. About 200 of them had already arrived, and greater numbers were daily expected. They are to cultivate the sugar-cane and manufacture sugar. The climate is stated to be perfectly healthy, and the soil exceedingly rich. From all I hear the colony is likely to thrive if well-directed; and its success would, no doubt, contribute greatly to the extinction of the slave-trade.—*Correspondent of Standard*, Nov. 26, 1849.

Colonial Intelligence.

BRITISH GUIANA.—ARRIVAL OF CAPTURED AFRICANS.—HORRORS OF THE SLAVE TRADE.—By the brig *Challenger*, thirty-two days from Rio Janeiro, the colony has obtained an addition to its labouring strength by the arrival of 111 captured Africans. We understand that one death had occurred on the passage; but that all on board are well.

The circumstances under which these unfortunate Africans were captured, show the daring and the atrocity with which the Brazilians are now carrying on the abominable slave-trade. It appears, from all we can learn, that the credit of this capture is due to the *Rifleman*, steamer of war, Lieut. Crofton, R.N., one of the vessels employed on the Brazilian station for the suppression of the slave-trade; and that the 111 captured Africans who have reached Guiana formed part of a cargo of about 600 slaves on board a Brazilian brigantine called the *Tifrene*, which was seized by the *Rifleman* on the 28th June last, to the northward of Cape Frio. It seems, from such information as we can collect, that this brigantine was discovered by the *Rifleman* on the afternoon of the day mentioned, and that, perceiving the *Rifleman* had given her chase, and that there was no chance of escape, she ran on shore some few miles to the north of that Cape, on the night of the 28th, with her whole cargo of slaves. This was of course done to disappoint the *Rifleman*, who could not follow among the breakers, of the full value of the expected prize. The murderous villany of this act will appear, when we state that, on the boats of the steamer reaching the brigantine, the officers and men found that the crew had abandoned her, that every single sail was set, not even the studding sails having been taken in, and that the sea was breaking heavily over her, and sweeping the slaves off her decks to certain death below. It is incredible how benevolent England, who abolished slavery in her own colonies years ago, can have anything to do with, far more, how she can aid and abet, by keeping up, encouraging, and enlarging a commercial intercourse with them, such wholesale murderers as these Brazilian slave-traders and pirates. The consequence of this infamous proceeding of running ashore the brigantine in so desperate a manner was, that, although the most gallant and judicious exertions were made by Lieut. Crofton and his officers and men, in the night of the 28th and the morning of the 29th, to rescue as many of the slaves as possible from a watery grave, only 127 lives were saved out of the 600. That this enormous and wanton sacrifice of life took place in the course of a few hours off the coast, near Cape Frio, there is, we understand, no manner of doubt, the fact that when this brigantine went on shore she had 600 negroes on board being abundantly proved by the papers found in her. The brigantine herself, which we learn was bound from Benguela to Brazil, and was Brazilian property, had gone ashore so effectually, and was so firmly imbedded in the sand, that it was impossible to save her. She was therefore burned and scuttled.—*Royal Gazette*.

WRETCHED CONDITION OF THE COOLIES.—The *Colonist*, of Oct. 17th.

makes the following remarks on the deplorable state of the Coolie immigrants:—Are we to allow these unfortunate beings to perish in our streets, and do we expect to escape the vengeance of God for our inhumanity to our fellow-beings? And yet, the fact is, they are dying on the highways in broad day, and the authorities appear callous and insensible. 'Tis true the humane feelings of Mrs. Barkly, and some other benevolent ladies and gentlemen, led a short time since to a spasmodic-like effort of charity for the establishment of a school for Coolie children; but though feeding and clothing a score of little ones be a good thing, as far as it goes, it is utterly insufficient to alleviate the great and wide spread misery which prevails amongst these helpless Orientals.

The whole of Georgetown and New Amsterdam swarms with them; many of them being the most miserable-looking objects it is possible to conceive, diseased, attenuated, and helpless to the last degree, and many more irreclaimable mendicants, belonging to that caste of Hindoos who are beggars by hereditary descent. As the members of other castes follow the professions of their forefathers, so do these adopt mendicancy as their mode of life, and nothing but prolonged and skilful management can win them to industrious pursuits. A correspondent of ours drew attention, in our journal of Friday last, to the shocking and disgusting exhibition of poor Coolies, who congregate on the open space of ground, bounded on one side by the public buildings, the seat of legislature and government, and on the other by the public market. Scarce was the ink dry which reprobated the gross neglect of the authorities, when in broad daylight, only a few yards from the stalls loaded with meat and vegetables, one of these unfortunates stretched himself down in the street, and literally died of starvation!! A little after three o'clock, on Saturday afternoon, the attention of policeman, No. 78, was drawn to the dying appearance of the man; he sent off for the hospital cart, but remained by him himself, witnessed his death, closed his eyes, covered him over to protect the body from the burning rays of the sun, sent word to the High Sheriff, and kept guard till past six o'clock, when, by the exertions of Serjeant Carty, the body was finally removed from the gaze of the horrified spectators, to the shelter of a shed adjoining the Police Station at America Stelling.

Now, the condition of the unfortunate Coolies has repeatedly attracted notice, and the Hon. Mr. Bruce Ferguson, much to his credit, a short time ago endeavoured to give a practical shape to the humane sentiments professed by his brother legislators. We have not been sparing of our censures upon that gentleman for his recent political backsliding, but we here point out to him how he can regain the confidence and respect of his fellow-citizens. Let him energetically follow up what he has already commenced—the advocacy of these distressed members of the human family; others will join him, the authorities, if dilatory, are not indisposed to assist in the good work, and let our community be rescued from the affliction and guilt of decimating the poor Coolies by neglect and starvation, merely because they are from sickness or weakness unable to work, or because, from parental example and confirmed habits, they prefer the misery of idleness to the comforts of well-rewarded industry.

TRINIDAD. — RIOT AND LOSS OF LIFE.—At a late meeting of the Legislative Council of Trinidad an Ordinance was introduced, and hurriedly passed, on the subject of imprisonment for debt, containing a clause to the effect (as was reported, for neither the press nor the public were allowed a copy of the Ordinance,) that those who had rendered themselves liable to the payment of debts, and were unable to pay, and as a consequence suffered imprisonment, according to the time allotted for the same, should be treated as criminals, and be compelled to wear gaol clothing, to have their heads shaved, and be required to perform menial labour within the walls of the prison. Notwithstanding the non-publication of this Ordinance, the fact of its having passed, and that it would become law on the 1st of October, soon became generally known throughout the town and adjacent country; the humbler classes at once became aroused, and complained bitterly of the oppressiveness of the measure, which, in its application, had special reference to themselves, and was not intended for those whose debts were summed up by hundreds and thousands, but only for those numbering units. In order to give some expression to their feelings on the subject, a public meeting of the friends of equal rights was advertised to be held on the day on which the Ordinance was first to take effect, the 1st of October. The Hall in which the meeting was appointed to be convened being too small, it was agreed that it should be held in the Market-place. Thither the crowd proceeded, and transacted the business of the meeting in an orderly and becoming manner. The following are the resolutions which were unanimously adopted, viz.—

"That this meeting has heard with alarm and deep indignation that certain gaol regulations have met with the sanction of the Board of Council, whereby persons committed under warrants of the Petty Civil Court are, distinctively from those committed under civil process of other courts of the island, subjected to all the degradation of a felon's treatment—clothing, fare, and labour.

"This meeting repudiates this enactment as tyrannical, unjust, and impolitic, for the following reasons:—

"Because it visits a mere breach of contract, oftentimes the result of uncontrollable misfortune, with all the pains and penalties of a crime of the deepest dye.

"Because it presses most partially and oppressively on the poor man, whose position in life will render him constantly liable to the application of this law, whilst debtors of a higher class in society, for liabilities contracted in the indulgence of extravagance and luxury, remain wholly unscathed.

"Because such a regulation has the effect of degrading the honest, but poor man, and most injuriously affecting society, by this distinction of all moral and social self-respect.

"Because it indiscriminately subjects every man committed under a writ of the Petty Civil Court to this same injurious treatment, without any opportunity of election to the debtor, whether he prefer availing himself of the so-called grace, of a short imprisonment with the discharge of his debt, accompanied with great degradation, and a consequent loss of standing in society, or whether he will submit to a longer imprisonment without such degradation, and remain under the liability, after his release, of still liquidating his debt, should better circumstances enable him to do so.

"That this meeting also hereby expresses its most decided disapprobation and reprehension of those regulations by which prisoners waiting trial, and prisoners committed for want of bail, are submitted to an operation which, in whatever light it may be regarded as a portion of the prison discipline of the mother country, is looked upon, as regards prisoners confined in the gaol of this colony, as a very great degradation; as also of the regulations by which all misdemeanants, without distinction of the nature of their offence, are clothed in a prison garb, and placed at the command of the gaoler to perform offices of the most menial, and one of the most disgusting description.

(Signed) "ED. S. HOBSON, Chairman."

Six deputies were appointed to present the resolutions to the Governor in Council on that day, and report without delay the result of their interview. The meeting quietly broke up, and in due time the deputies proceeded to the Government-house, and had an interview with the Governor, who very readily consented to have the obnoxious clause erased from the gaol regulations. So far well, but the Council had to meet and formally sanction the erasure. By this time, the crowd around the Government-house was immense, and all standing on the tiptoe of expectation; little disposed, of course, to exercise the grace of patience. In course of time the Council met; but, instead of proceeding at once, as they ought, to the urgent and pressing business of the day, (thousands outside anxiously waited their decision,) they passed away the time with matters of comparatively absolute insignificance. In the meantime an incident occurred that induced the unthinking and excited multitude to violate the peace. The council-chamber was inconveniently, nay, oppressively crowded, and two policemen were sent for to make room. The people refused to retire. Some confusion ensued. A young man was arrested, but was speedily rescued, and made his escape down stairs. Intelligence of his arrest, and that the Council was not attending to the gaol clause, as promised by the Governor, soon spread among the crowd assembled outside, when instantly a shower of stones came through the windows of the council-room. The Council broke up: the members and spectators seeking safety where they best could. The military were sent for, and on their arrival some degree of order was restored, and the Council resumed business. The obnoxious clause in the gaol regulations was abrogated, and the deputation hastened and informed the people outside of the fact, advising all to proceed to their homes, when a large number of those, chiefly Trinidadians, who had peaceably assembled in the morning, to remonstrate and protest against a partial and degrading law, retired from Government house. Those who remained in front of Government house were ignorant people who had come in from the country, chiefly idle and impudent women. They seemed more bent on mischief than the attainment of any rational object. In fact, they knew not what they wanted. By way of pretext, and to have an opportunity of venting their spite and wrath, they demanded that Mr. Warner, the attorney-general, should come out and tell them that the hated clause had been annulled. Mr. Warner complied. He stated what the Council had done, and requested three cheers for the Queen, which were heartily and lustily given. The sub-inspector of police, in attempting to make a way for the Governor, who was about to enter his carriage, had to push a man with his staff, who refused to move, and even resisted. Instantly the crowd commenced to throw stones. They continued to pelt the police. The Riot Act was read, the order to fire was given, four or five muskets were discharged, and four persons fell wounded, three women and a lad; the latter and one of the former are subsequently dead. This did not stay the fury of the mob. They continued to assail the soldiers and police with stones, and we understand there would have been more firing and more bloodshed but for the intervention of the Governor. Peace was subsequently restored, and no further outbreak was apprehended. The *Trinidadian*, in commenting upon this sad outbreak, says:—

The riot on Monday is a melancholy affair. Its originating or primary cause was partial, hasty and furtive legislation. At the same time,

the conduct of the crowd was reprehensible in the highest degree. Redress was sought, and would have been got by peaceful measures. What a sad lecture we have had on the necessity of representation! The people have no voice in the making of the laws by which they are governed—they have no one in the Legislative Council to see to their interests—nay, the laws enacted are not made known to them, except when they break them, and are called on to endure their penalty.

Our advice to the people is, be peaceful, diligently pursue your respective callings, secure and guard your rights by all lawful means;—when oppressed, seek redress by oral or written memorial and remonstrance. Be firm and persevering in your righteous demands, and tyranny will certainly and soon quail before you.

The conduct of the rabble admits of no defence; it was irrational and violent; and the scenes that occurred are deeply to be lamented. But we could not help observing, that there was no evidence of preconcert among the thousands assembled. They had no leaders, and they had no arms, which plainly proved that they had not met for a belligerent purpose.

TOBAGO.—The *Tobago Chronicle* is almost entirely occupied with the proceedings of a public meeting held in Scarborough, on the 13th instant, "for the purpose of urging upon the British nation the necessity of, by every moral and legal means, having the treaties with Spain and Brazil faithfully fulfilled." "The attendance," says the *Chronicle*, "considering our limited community as to number, was large and respectable. The object in view was one in which all parties, of whatever denomination, shade of politics, or complexion, could heartily unite in promoting. Ministers of the Gospel connected with the various sections of the Christian church in this colony were present, and took a part in the meeting. The speeches delivered on the occasion are reported in our columns at such length as to leave us but little to say on the occasion. We must, however, express our satisfaction at the formation of 'The Tobago Branch Anti-slavery Society.' From the names of its office-bearers we have every reason to indulge in the hope, that its operations will be conducted with vigour and attended with success."

The following are the names of the gentlemen elected as office-bearers, and who have been authorised to frame rules and regulations for the guidance of the society:—

"President, his Honour the Chief-Justice; treasurer, the Honourable J. H. Keens; secretary, Wm. Ward, Esq.

"Committee: Honourables A. McPherson, James Kirk; Peter Tait, Robert Gordon, Angus Melvill, Jas. Leith, Samuel Wood, Dr. Gilchrist, Dougald Yeates, G. H. Richardson, Esqrs.; ministers of the Gospel to be ex-officio members of the committee."

Miscellanea.

THE COAST OF AFRICA SQUADRON.—The *Constance*, 50, Captain Corney, lately from the coast, brings the following intelligence. The *Snap*, tender to the *Centaur* steam-frigate on the coast of Africa, having arrived some months ago at Ascension in a very leaky state, was ordered to St. Paul de Loando, to be hove down and refitted. She arrived in the beginning of August in a wretched state, several feet of water in her hold, &c. She is commanded by Lieutenant C. O. B. Hall, who lately took out the *Lark* schooner to Siberia. Slaving is rapidly increasing on the south coast. Several full vessels have escaped from our cruisers, defeating the utmost vigilance; but the increase is owing chiefly to a want of vessels. Whilst professing to keep the squadron to its full efficiency, the Admiralty are quietly diminishing it, thereby tacitly acknowledging the futility of keeping it here at all. Already in the present year four mails have been sent from England in men-of-war not employed as cruisers on the station, whilst a corresponding number have been sent home monthly from Ascension. Of the vessels actually cruising, the strict and regular despatch of mails to and from England by the present powers has been duly felt and appreciated by the entire squadron. The *Centaur* had captured two feluccas on her way from Ascension—one was run ashore and destroyed, her crew having deserted her, fully equipped and armed for the slave-trade. The *Centaur* sailed early in August from Loando for St. Helena, taking Mr. Gabriel, commissioner at Loando, to that island, for the benefit of his health. She returned laden with provisions for the coast squadron, after a two days' stay at that depôt, visiting the cruisers to the southward, stopping at Fish Bay, where a Brazilian barque had lately arrived with 200 Portuguese emigrants from Pernambuco, who are forming a settlement there for the growth of coffee and sugar, under the guidance and assistance of the Portuguese Government, but the resources at their command are of a most wretched description. The second master of the *Lark* schooner is appointed to the

Centaur, vice Hall, who went home acting-master of the *Philomel*. No prizes have lately been captured off Loando, though several vessels have been known to leave with full cargoes, defeating the vigilance of the cruisers, which they are greatly assisted in doing by the connivance of the American flag, it being a constant occurrence for our vessels or boats to board ships under American colours, which perhaps in a few hours after take in their slaves, and sail when night-time comes on and favours their escape; the plan being thus:—The vessel is already sold, and has her slave crew and captain on board; all things being ready, the slaves are taken in in a couple of hours, and as they come over one gangway, the American crew, captain, and papers go out at the other; but sacred rights of nations forbid the scrutiny that in many instances would expose the real character of the forsooth lawful trader, and so the humbug goes on.

Her Majesty's ship *Dart*, 3, Lieut. Commander E. Hill, arrived at Portsmouth on the 23rd November, from Sierra Leone, which port she left on the 18th of October. The *Flying Fish*, brig, left Sierra Leone on the 14th ult. to join the Commodore down the coast. A prize had been taken in the Congo river by the *Firefly*. The vessel was under American colours, and was gallantly boarded by a boat (belonging to the *Firefly*) under command of Mr. T. W. Newport, acting mate, six Kroomen and two white men, and had on board 600 slaves; her name was the *Whig* of New York. The last prize taken was by the *Cyclops*. The *Alert* had also captured a vessel with 214 slaves on board. Lieut. Phillips to join the *Contest*, the Rev. T. E. Poole, colonial chaplain, on sick leave, and a dozen men invalided, came home by the *Dart*, which is ordered to Sheerness to be paid off. The *Alert*, Commander Dunlop, was at Sierra Leone when the *Dart* sailed. She had brought the slaves that had been surrendered by the African chiefs at the river Gallinas, to Sierra Leone. They did not amount to more than 300; they were half starved; and it appears that the reason the chiefs surrendered them to Commander Dunlop was, that the Gallinas was so strictly blockaded that there was no chance of disposing of them; and also, that they had nothing to feed them on. The ships on the station were all healthy, and the season at Sierra Leone, as regards Europeans, had been very healthy, but the reverse for the natives. The English consul, Mr. Duncan, was about to make treaties with several native chiefs; Lieut. F. E. Forbes, of the *Bonetta*, accompanying him. The governor (a black man) of the American station on the coast had visited Mr. Pine, acting governor of Sierra Leone, and had shown himself to be a very intelligent man. Mr. Macdonald, the governor, was daily expected from England, when it is expected Mr. Pine will return home. The slave-trade was as active as ever, and it is asserted, by those who have good reason for knowing, that there is no chance with the present force of putting a stop to the traffic.

DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received since our last, and are hereby thankfully acknowledged:—

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